

BIG ROCK SINGERS

CHOIR MEMBER HANDBOOK

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CHOIR CULTURE

In the Big Rock Singers, we want the focus to be on enjoyment and camaraderie in a musically rewarding atmosphere! Our choir members are busy folks with a variety of work, family, travel and other commitments. Singing in a choir is something our members do for fun and friendship, in addition to creating wonderful music together! Yes, effort and dedication are needed in order to create a performance product worthy of our devoted audience, BUT in the process, we laugh, smile and have a lot of FUN!

Our History

In 1989 Lynda McLennan, along with Betty Korthuis, formed the Okotoks Interfaith Community Choir – a gathering of singers from many of the churches in Okotoks. In 1992, this choir became known as the Okotoks Community Choir and later joined the umbrella of the Foothills Music Society as the “Foothills Community Choir.” This group continued under the leadership of Lynda McLennan, and in 1996, with agreement from the membership, the group decided on a new name – the Big Rock Singers was born!

During the years under Lynda's leadership, the Big Rock Singers (BRS) performed in many venues in the Foothills and Calgary and made a number of CD recordings. Lynda retired from the choir in 2004, after 15 years on the podium!

Since January 2005, the Big Rock Singers have been conducted by Carey Gruber. A private music teacher and music school owner in Okotoks since 1986, Carey brought her experience conducting church, children and youth choirs to the helm of the Big Rock Singers, along with steadfast dedication to the people of the choir. Under Carey's enthusiastic and creative leadership, the choir membership has grown to between 60 and 85 members each season and Big Rock Singers performances have evolved into high-energy, entertaining “show choir” concerts appealing to sold-out audiences of young and old(er) alike!

Today

Today the Big Rock Singers continues to be a dynamic contributor to the Southern Alberta choral community, each year gaining new singers and appreciative audience members.

Singers come from Okotoks, High River, Nanton, Claresholm, Blackie, Black Diamond, Turner Valley, Priddis, Millarville, DeWinton, M.D. of Foothills, Chestermere, Langdon, Strathmore and Calgary! Our singers tell us that they came for the music and performance opportunities – and have stayed for the fun, friendship and camaraderie of this amazing group!

Since 2006, our Spring season performances have grown into thrilling stage productions featuring costumes and movement with theatrical lighting and sound. As a new member, you will be incredulous at what we can do in just 18 weeks – it is a blast! Past Spring seasons have included:

SPRING, 2006 *Broadway and the Blues*

SPRING, 2007 *A Night at the Movies*

SPRING, 2008 *The Fabulous 50's*

SPRING, 2009 *The Sensational 60's*

SPRING, 2010 *It's Swing Time - Big Band Music of the 30's and 40's (20th Anniversary Gala)*

SPRING, 2011 *Disco Fever – Smash Hits of the 70's*

SPRING, 2012 *Awesome 80's Prom Night*

SPRING, 2013 *O-Town Hoedown – A Country Music Celebration*

SPRING, 2014 *Viva Las Vegas!*

SPRING, 2015 *A Blast IN the Past (25th Anniversary)*

SPRING, 2016 *On Broadway!*

SPRING 2017 *Be Our Guest! The Music and Magic of Disney on Broadway!*

SPRING 2018 *Cinema Magic!*

SPRING 2019 *It's a SING OFF*

MISSION-VISION-CORE VALUES

Big Rock Singers MISSION

To provide the opportunity for adult singers, regardless of music background or experience, to join their voices in song, building to exciting performances.

Big Rock Singers VISION

A fun, friendly and welcoming atmosphere conducive to musical development and quality performance standards.

Big Rock Singers CORE VALUES

The BIG ROCK SINGERS value:

- Inclusivity and mutual respect
- Every voice which contributes to the whole
- Positive camaraderie and teamwork
- Dynamic and entertaining performance opportunities for members
- Connecting with and giving back to the community
- Effective governance and administration resulting from a collaborative effort between staff and volunteers
- The professionalism, talents and dedication of our artistic leaders

- That which makes us unique in the Southern Alberta choral community - the high energy show choir element of our performances and providing singers the opportunity for travel performance as a choir

CREATIVE TEAM

The Big Rock Singers believe that while music and singing is important, it is our **people** – our singers and our staff – who are the most important! Quite literally, our **people** are the heart and soul of our choir!

We are very fortunate to have amazing contracted artistic leaders: Music/Artistic Director, **Carey Gruber**, Accompanist, **Antonina Cox** and Choreographer, **Jocelyn Leiver**.

These talented and dedicated ladies, along with Technical Director/Producer, **Brian Zelt**, make up our **Creative Team** and are responsible for all aspects of our show production.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Our choir year is divided into two seasons: Christmas and Spring.

Christmas

Our Christmas season starts the first week of September and ends about the second week of December. If you love to sing, what better time to sing than at Christmas??!! The Big Rock Singers CHRISTMAS CHOIR will be a highlight of your holiday season!

Every two years, the season includes a performance at the Town of Okotoks Remembrance Day ceremony (a proud BRS tradition) and possibly performances at Light Up Okotoks, Spruce Meadows, and other fun venues during the holiday season!

Our Christmas season hits the high point with our annual Christmas performance, usually on the first Saturday in December - always to a very appreciative audience! The festive season wraps up on the Friday following the Christmas show by sharing our music with local Seniors and our wind-up party!

Spring

Our Spring season starts the first week of January and ends the first week of May, and features two choirs to choose from, depending on your preferred level of participation:

Concert Choir (Spring season)

You love to sing and enjoy the creative energy of taking your choir experience to the next level, but you don't want to over-commit your time.

The Big Rock Singers Spring CONCERT CHOIR provides all the fun and excitement of performing in the Big Rock Singers Spring Show with less of a time and learning commitment.

The Concert Choir sings with the Show Choir, but does fewer songs and no extra ensembles. No auditions.

Show Choir (Spring season)

You LOVE the thrill of performance and the more you are up on that stage singing and dancing, the happier you are!

The Big Rock Singers Spring SHOW CHOIR is for singers who love to do solos and ensemble groups and want the whole package. Let your talents shine - the music, drama, dance and costumes will provide an unforgettable stage performance experience!

**Additional Saturdays and/or 6:00pm Wednesday rehearsals may apply for soloists and ensemble members.*

**Solos and some ensemble parts by audition.*

**Nominal costume fee may apply for specialty/character costumes*

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Big Rock Singers is open to all adults (age 18+) who love to sing and wish to share the joy of making music as a choir. There are no auditions to join - you do not have to read music – you don't even need any previous singing experience! All that is needed is a willingness to attend rehearsals and to commit a reasonable amount of time outside rehearsals to learning/practicing the music.

Fees

A fee will be charged at the time of registration for each season – we work very hard to keep the fee as low as possible. This fee covers expenses such as music, rehearsal venue rental, contract remuneration for artistic leaders and other fixed operational costs. Once per year, all singers pay a small fee to maintain membership in the Big Rock Singers Society. The society fee provides members with a vote at the Annual General Meeting of the society. Non-singing members can pay the society membership fee to maintain voting status. **There are no refunds on registration or society membership fees once paid.**

Fee Assistance

To reduce barriers to joining our choir due to financial circumstances, there are a number of Fee Assistance options available – please email us and we will be happy to help – all requests are completely confidential – info@bigrocksingers.com

Volunteerism

The Big Rock Singers is a "member's choir" where every choir member plays an important role in sustaining the group. Our members help by: serving on choir committees and the Board of Directors, supporting special choir activities, assisting with fundraising, selling raffle tickets, providing baking for our bake sale fundraisers and other valued contributions.

At the time of registration, singers will indicate three areas in which they are willing to volunteer. You will be assigned to one of these areas, and we appreciate your enthusiastic contribution of time, talent and energy, both during the choir year and during Show Week!

Volunteer Opt-Out

In lieu of volunteering during the pre-performance choir season, singers can instead choose to contribute financially. This financial contribution means that the singer will not be expected to serve on a choir committee, sell raffle tickets, or contribute items to the bake sale associated with each show. Please note: everyone must do their part to help out during Show Week.

Please also note that the Volunteer Opt-Out includes regular, ongoing choir volunteerism as outlined above. It does not include opting out of taking a casino shift. Once every three years, the BRS has the opportunity to raise substantial operating funds by working as a group at a casino. We can't risk being able to successfully meet our casino volunteer requirements – the casino funds help us immensely!

- The Volunteer Opt-Out fee must be paid in full at the time of registration for each season (no installment payments) and is completely non-refundable, without exception.
- Choir members may not choose to opt-out of volunteering after the start of the season
- The fee can be paid by credit card when registering online, or by cheque, cash or bank draft (hand-delivered or mailed.) Your registration will not be considered final until the opt-out fee has been received in full.
- Choir members may request a tax receipt for the opt-out fee, if they wish
- Opt-out fee payments will be credited to our "ATB Cares" account and as such, the choir will also benefit from the additional 15% provided by ATB.

Recruiting

Recruiting for new members occurs prior to the start of each season – we are grateful for the efforts of our members in promoting our choir and extending an invitation to others to join our merry crew of singers!

Choir Care

Our value of the people in our choir extends outside the parameters of rehearsals and performances – we are a choir family! Our Choir Care Coordinator maintains connection with our singers – so that as a group we can celebrate joyous events as well as offer support during the difficult times.

REHEARSALS

The Big Rock Singers rehearse on **Wednesday** evenings at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 20 Banister Gate in Okotoks.**

Christmas Season

- Wednesdays – 7:00 to 9:30pm
- Three Saturday mornings (usually once each month Sept/Oct/Nov) for a Workshop Rehearsal

Spring Season

- Concert Choir: Wednesdays – 7:00 to 9:00pm and usually 3-4 Saturdays (half or full days)
- Show Choir: Wednesdays – 7:00 to 10:00pm and usually 3-4 Saturdays (half or full days)

Sectional Rehearsals

Many of our singers have such a great time together that they also meet on Monday evening with members of their singing sections for a little extra practice. Participation in the sectional rehearsals is optional, but really fun and a great way to make new friends! The sectional practices will also help you feel that much more confident with the music.

- Ladies (soprano and alto) sectional practices take place in Okotoks
- Men (tenor and bass) take turns hosting their sectional

Choir Buddies

From your very first rehearsal with the Big Rock Singers, you will have a “Choir Buddy” who is ready to lend a helping hand! Your buddy will provide a warm, personal welcome to the BRS and will answer any questions. Choir buddies are also the people to contact if you have to miss a rehearsal – they can fill you in so you don’t miss a beat!

REPERTOIRE

The Big Rock Singers sing a wide variety of music!

At the **first rehearsal of each season**, registered singers are given a package of music for the season. At this first rehearsal, our Music Director will go through all the music, providing important details including any changes or adjustments that have been made to the songs.

In our **Christmas season** we prepare one song for Remembrance Day, with the rest of our repertoire focussed on Christmas. To provide continuity and flow to our performance, our repertoire for each

season is thoughtfully chosen by our Music/Artistic Director, with great care and attention to style, level of difficulty and musical appropriateness that will inspire, excite and best fit our singers!

Our **Spring season** culminates in a thrilling “show choir” performance, which features costumes and movement (stage blocking and choreography for those who choose to dance.) Each Spring we embrace a new theme, and with the help of our Music/Artistic Director and Choreographer, our singers rise to performance heights beyond their expectations!

Songs for all concerts and shows are performed by **memory** – this sounds much harder than it is – trust us! Truly, by concert time, you will be confident and secure in your knowledge of the music! Each singer is provided with practice recordings for at-home use – these recordings are posted on our choir management website (Groupanizer) and can be downloaded on your device.

The only time BRS **auditions** singers is for solo parts. This occurs mainly in the Spring season, but there are sometimes solo opportunities in the Christmas season, as well. Our Music/Artistic Director will provide details on solo opportunities when we go through all the music at the first rehearsal of each season, including information on how to audition.

PERFORMANCES

The Big Rock Singers have three main annual performances – these performances, along with the post-Christmas show Senior's Residence mini-performance, are considered **mandatory** for our singers. Additional performance opportunities may occur seasonally and are considered as they arise.

Remembrance Day

Every other year (even-numbered years) the Big Rock Singers continue the proud tradition of singing in the Town of Okotoks Remembrance Day ceremony, held at the Pason Centennial Arena in Okotoks.

- Choir arrival time is 8:00am for sound check – doors open for the public at 9:00am – ceremony starts at 10:00am.
- No tickets needed for audience - there is no cost to attend this event.
- Dress Code: Black pants, white dress shirt/blouse with collar, black low-heel, soft-soled shoes (all singers will be provided with a scarf/tie.)

Christmas

Our Christmas performances *usually* include two shows on one day (3:00pm and 7:00pm) on the first Saturday of December. The venue for our Christmas shows is either Okotoks United Church or the Foothills Centennial Centre, depending on the theme chosen by our Music/Artistic Director.

- Choir arrival time for Show Week/Dress rehearsal(s) and Show Day(s): TBA
- Christmas show tickets go on sale in October and are available online through our website.
- Dress Code: TBA

Spring

Our Spring show takes place on *either* the first or second Saturday of May at the Foothills Centennial Centre in Okotoks.

- Show Week Rehearsals: Wednesday (6:00 to 10:00pm) and Friday (6:00 to 10:00pm) prior to Show Day at the Foothills Centennial Centre. Call time may be earlier for Green Room set-up
- Choir arrival time for sound check on Show Day: TBA
- Dress Code: Costumes as itemized in the Costume Outline provided to each singer at rehearsal.

***Please Note: We will provide you with lots of support and guidance on ways to create amazing, economical costumes!*

Additional Performances

Senior's Residence Performance

Each year our Christmas season ends with a mini-performance at one of the senior's residences in Okotoks. This is one of the ways the BRS likes to "give back" to our community – it is extremely rewarding to sing for a welcoming and appreciate audience of seniors who might not otherwise be able to attend one of our shows! This event is always followed by our Christmas Wind-Up Party – great fun for our singers and spouses!

Other – Hospice, Light Up Okotoks, Spruce Meadows

Additional community performance opportunities are announced as they become known and often small groups of choir members participate informally at these events.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



THE *BIG ROCK SINGERS*
CARING... BY ...SHARING

The Big Rock Singers values the support we receive from our local community – both our loyal audience members and the community business partners who support our performances. We, in turn, are honoured to reciprocate by donating a sizable donation of our show ticket proceeds to local charity organizations.

As of our Spring 2019 shows, the Big Rock Singers has donated *more than \$42,000* to local charities!



TOUR PERFORMANCES

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of our choir, 60 members and spouses of the Big Rock Singers were thrilled to be part of a 10-day trip to Vienna and Salzburg, Austria to participate in the "International Advent Sing" Festival in November, 2015.

This event proved to be an incredible opportunity to learn a program of music befitting this event, and represent our community and country while performing in awe-inspiring venues and immersing ourselves in Austrian music and culture.

Choir tours provide focus to our preparation, enhance choir member interaction, increase engagement in the musical fabric of our local, national and international communities, provide exciting opportunities to perform and hone our choral-singing skills with the occasion to explore a wider range of music, and help us develop to a level worthy of performing on an international stage – so exciting!

The Big Rock Singers 2019 Tour takes place in JULY, 2019 – a 9-day performance tour to IRELAND!

Future tour opportunities are being looked at – potentially in 2021. All are welcome – but don't delay in contacting our BRS Tour Coordinator, Heather Andrews at hmandrews2@gmail.com to indicate your interest in the next tour - you'll be glad you did!

CHOIR MEMBER Hints and Tips

A **GREAT** Choir Singer Always:

- Holds music high enough to be able to watch the Director at all times
- Does not talk when the Director is speaking to help maintain rehearsal focus for all
- Has a pencil / highlighter in hand at rehearsals and uses it to mark the score
- Arrives early to help set up and is ready to start rehearsing on time
- Warms up the voice by singing gently before arriving at every rehearsal
- Has the music ready and organized for every rehearsal in a black choir folder or binder
- Stows personal belongings outside the rehearsal area
- Sits in an upright position on the edge of the seat with feet flat on the floor– never leaning back
- Sips water frequently during rehearsals to keep vocal folds hydrated
- Is a focused and respectful listener – to the Director and to the rest of the choir
- Sings without out-singing his/her neighbour
- Respects everyone's time and saves chatter for designated breaks, or before/after rehearsal
- Practices between rehearsals with the recordings provided and participates as often as possible in the sectional practices on Mondays
- Is relaxed and positive, maintaining a spirit of fun and good humour
- Compliments others...never criticizes

- Asks for assistance - at the break - from other choir members when struggling with a part
- Assists with tear-down and clean-up after rehearsal
- Strives for musical growth and progress each week, embracing the joy of making beautiful music

INTERNET RESOURCES

Website

The official Big Rock Singers website is the place to go for up-to-date information on our choir – upcoming seasons, performance dates, sponsors and donors - as well as to register to sing with us, sign up for our mailing list or to buy tickets for our performances: www.bigrocksingers.com

Groupanizer

The Big Rock Singers uses the choir management tool *GROUPANIZER* as the hub for all information pertaining to members. On our Groupanizer site, registered singers can log their attendance, find important dates, rehearsal schedules, documents (costume outline, information notices and reminders, choreography notes) and listen to practice recordings. It is your one-stop shop for things you need to know and is very easy to navigate!

After the first rehearsal of each new season, our Groupanizer administrator will get new members set up in the system:

<https://bigrocksingers.groupanizer.com>

Login: `firstname.lastname`

Password: You will receive an email after registration inviting you to join Groupanizer and create a password. Passwords can be reset if needed.

Social Media



The Big Rock Singers have TWO Facebook pages, and we hope all members will take a moment to join – and like – these pages!

“BIG ROCK SINGERS” - Official Facebook Page

Take a moment to “LIKE” this page, so that you can “Follow” our activities. This is the page where choir members AND family, friends and audience can keep up-to-date on our shows, new seasons and how to become a Big Rock Singer! Content on this page is posted by our Marketing Committee and Music



Director. Be sure to “share” this page with friends and family members – please “invite” them to “like” this page too!

“BRS MEMBERS ONLY” - Facebook Page

As a member, please take a moment to “JOIN” this page and sign up to get our “Notifications.” It is a “closed group” page, and as such, your request to join will be accepted by one of the members already on the page. THEN you can follow all the fun, antics and generally interesting stuff posted by your fellow choir members and by our Music/Artistic Director and Choreographer!

GOVERNANCE

Society

The Big Rock Singers became a registered Not-for-Profit Society in 2013 and a Registered Charity in 2017. Each year an Annual General Meeting is held in October and is open to all society members in good standing.

Board of Directors

The members of our Board of Directors are responsible for the operations of the choir, and ensuring that members abide by the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook. The Board, including our Music/Artistic Director, meet regularly to make collaborative decisions in the best interests of the choir and its members.

Committee Structure

There are a number of standing committees within the BRS structure: Marketing, Social, Choir Care, Tour and Volunteers to name a few - along with standing individual roles: Music Librarian, Tour Coordinator, Groupanizer Administrator and Bookkeeper, among others. Special (ad hoc) committees are organized when necessary.

Fundraising Opportunities

Choir operational costs are funded through membership fees, performance proceeds, sponsorships and fundraising activities (such as bake sales, Purdy's chocolate orders, event volunteering etc.) As a Charitable Society, we are also eligible for casino funding through AGLC and grant funding from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and other sources.

ARTISTIC LEADERS

The Big Rock Singers have three contracted artistic leaders who receive remuneration for their expertise and contribution to our choir:

- Music/Artistic Director – **Carey Gruber**
- Accompanist – **Antonina Cox**
- Choreographer – **Jocelyn Leiver**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Big Rock Singers is a fun and musically rewarding adult choral experience, and as such requires commitment and dedication from our singers. Inconsistent attendance at rehearsals and performances is very discouraging for those who do attend regularly, and makes our Music Director's job very difficult.

We know that the pleasure derived from being part of this wonderful group will make the decision to commit to attending all rehearsals an easy decision to make! A choir is a team effort, and it takes all members of the team to be at rehearsal every week to have a successful event on Concert Day. You will be richly rewarded with a feeling of complete confidence and readiness during the performance – when your friends and family see you up on stage, they will be amazed at your accomplishment!

Rehearsal Absence

Rehearsal attendance is tracked by our Attendance Monitors. If you will be missing rehearsal for any reason please indicate your absence on Groupanizer.

If you must be absent for more than two rehearsals in a season, please contact our Music/Artistic Director at the start of the season to come to a mutually agreeable plan of action for the missed rehearsal time. Multiple absences without a plan of action may result in non-performance of the singer, at the discretion of the Creative Team.

Illness

If you are sick and are contagious, please stay home to avoid spread of germs. However, if at all possible, please attend rehearsal to listen from the back row of the rehearsal room. If you miss rehearsal, it is your responsibility to contact your choir buddy to catch up on what you missed.

Dress Rehearsals

Full-Cast/Dress Rehearsals are **mandatory**. These pre-performance rehearsals put all aspects of the show "to the test" – music, choreography, sound, lights, choir entrances/exits, stage management and more. With only one dress rehearsal to finalize all technical aspects of a show, it is imperative that choir

members be present, patient, flexible and respectful of the people and the process. Absence from a Dress Rehearsal can also result in non-performance of the singer, at the discretion of the Creative Team.

CHOIR MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

Be Respectful

Best described as treating others as you wish to be treated:

- Help maintain a professional and uplifting atmosphere at all rehearsals and performances by demonstrating respect and courtesy to fellow choir members, members of the Board of Directors, Music/Artistic Director, Accompanist and Choreographer.
- Do not use the name of this organization in conjunction with any inappropriate material or topic, nor any controversial issue
- Do not post advertisements or news about this organization without prior consent of the Board of Directors
- Do not use contact information (including names, email addresses, phone numbers) of choir members for anything other than approved BRS business (approval must be obtained through the Board of Directors)
- Do not publish negative opinions or controversial comments about this organization, its members or activities on the internet
- Seek to uphold BRS Policy Guidelines without facilitating negativity or criticism, and instead directing constructive and appropriate comments and requests to the applicable leadership

Be a Team Player

Choral music is a team effort, and all singers are responsible for their own parts. Be supportive and helpful to other singers in your section – never critical! There is a wide range in musical abilities among the members of our choir, but we never want anyone to feel less than welcome and accepted!

When you hear people around you struggling with a part, raise your hand and ask how the part should sound. It is not necessary to point out those who are singing incorrectly – allow that person to correct him/herself.

Be flexible in your musical judgements – in an ensemble situation, musical expression may not always be to your personal liking. The ultimate artistic interpretation and presentation is the responsibility of the Director, and it is the job of the singers to trust and implement this vision as accurately as possible.

Be Present and Attentive

Singing in a choir is a sociable pastime and choirs are full of sociable people. The camaraderie in a choir is one of the most important aspects! Feel free to make merry to your hearts content before and

after rehearsal. It is easy to slip into a habit of chatting to your neighbour during rehearsal. Ongoing chatter slows down the rehearsal, disrupts the focus of our Music Director and is a hindrance to your fellow singers. **Rehearsal time is reserved for preparation of the music** – not for socializing.

Please show respect for the Music Director and for your fellow singers by maintaining silence in your section while others are singing, and while the Director is talking. Singers can learn much about their own part by listening to what is said when the Director is working with another section. Please do not start chatting – instead, participate fully in our valuable rehearsal time by following your part on the music along with the section that is practicing, so you are ready for when your part is included in the singing. Suggestions and directions covered in one section will often apply to all sections.

Let Us Know!

It is important to us that we continue to meet the needs of our singers! If you have questions, suggestions, comments or concerns, **please let us know** – our Music Director and Board of Directors are all willing and able to help in any way they can to ensure that your experience in the Big Rock Singers is the best it can be!

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROTOCOL

Members are encouraged to demonstrate the core Choir Values of mutual respect and teamwork in problem solving and dispute resolution.

In the event of concerns needing additional follow-up, choir members are invited to contact the Board President and/or the Music Director. Concerns will be addressed by BRS leadership in a timely manner and in strict confidence. A dispute resolution model will be utilized that preserves:

- Respect – for all points of view
- Relationship – between all involved
- Reputation – of individuals and of the choir

Kind and respectful interactions among choir members makes for a happy choir – please do your part!

SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT

As part of Big Rock Singers (BRS) commitment to making social media (Facebook, Instagram, Email and all other online forums) a great place to meet and interact with others around the region, you agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.

Your commitment to this Code of Conduct in all bulletin board services, forums, photo albums, and/or other message or communication facilities designed to enable you to communicate with others ("Communication Services") helps create a positive experience for all users.

Above all, Respect Others

- BRS expects everyone to treat each other with mutual respect. Do not use the Communication Services to threaten, harass, abuse or criticize others.
- BRS reserves the right to remove posts that advocate or encourage expressions of violence, bigotry, racism, hatred, or profanity.
- BRS reserves the right to remove postings that are deemed inappropriate, offensive or that violate guidelines of this Code of Conduct.
- BRS may also eject or ban any user from their Communication Services who behaves in a manner deemed inappropriate, offensive or who violates guidelines or this Code of Conduct.

Keep It Legal

- BRS does not allow any illegal activities. You cannot use the Communication Services to publish, post, distribute, or disseminate defamatory, infringing, obscene, or other unlawful material or information.
- You may not use any of the Communication Services for the purpose of linking to external sites that violate this Code of Conduct.
- Do not upload files or post messages that contain photos, music, software or other material protected by intellectual property laws, rights of privacy or publicity or any other applicable law unless you own or control the rights thereto or have received all necessary consents. BRS is not responsible for any use of anything you say or post.
- Do not post any materials (including software and other information) that could harm (or is designed to harm) other users' computers or would allow others to inappropriately access software or websites.

Play Nice

- BRS does not tolerate disruptive activity online, such as statements that incite others to violate this Code of Conduct or participate in illegal activities. Our Site's users want to chat and post on our Communication Services in a positive environment.
- Falsely impersonating a BRS contracted artistic leader, Board member or any other choir member with the intent to mislead or cause harm to others is forbidden.

Don't Spam

- Please don't "spam" through our Communication Services. To spam includes sending identical and irrelevant submissions to many different mailing lists, chats or communities. To spam also includes misrepresenting the source of anything you say or post.
- BRS reserves the right to ban a user at any time, without notice, from any or all Communication Services for spamming.

Accept Responsibility

- You are responsible and liable for all your activities while participating in our Communication Services area. Remember, you are responsible for anything you say or post and for protecting your own computer system. It is recommended to utilize a virus protection program on your computer.
- BRS reserves the right to remove at any time, without notice, any posting to the Site.
- Some users may post external website links on the Site. Please be advised that BRS is not responsible for any of the content on these linked websites.

Uphold the Code

- BRS reserves the right to amend or change the Code of Conduct at any time without notice. You agree to periodically review this document to ensure you are doing your part.
- BRS is not obligated to send users or hosts a warning before deleting any content.

Protect Your Privacy

- We caution you against giving out personally identifiable information (such as names and addresses, telephone numbers, credit card numbers, driver license numbers) to strangers online, which may be used for illegal or harmful purposes.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

All members of the Big Rock Singers Society agree to abide by the following:

1. I have read the Policy Guidelines contained within the Choir Member Handbook and agree to abide by them:
 - Attendance Policy
 - Volunteerism/Volunteer Opt-Out Policy
 - Choir Member Code of Conduct
 - Dispute Resolution Protocol
 - Social Media Code of Conduct
2. I understand that violation of the Policy Guidelines may result in revocation of membership in the Big Rock Singers Society, at the discretion of the Board of Directors and Creative Team.
3. I understand that Big Rock Singers performances are often recorded (audio and video) and photographed for archival and promotional purposes, and that said photos, video and audio recordings may appear without my consent or knowledge as marketing tools through the internet and/or other forms of media publicity.
4. I understand and will uphold and support the Mission, Vision and Core Values of the Big Rock Singers Society.