



BIG ROCK
Singers

CHOIR MEMBER HANDBOOK

Updated: July, 2024

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 a steadfast dedication to the people of the choir. Under Carey's enthusiastic and creative leadership, the choir membership has grown to upwards of 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, Calgary, High River, Nanton, Claresholm, Blackie, Diamond Valley, Bragg Creek, Priddis, Millarville, DeWinton, M.D. of Foothills, Chestermere, Langdon, Strathmore – and beyond!

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!

MISSION-VISION-OBJECTIVES-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 OBJECTIVES

- To advance education by providing structured learning activities such as instructional rehearsals about choral music and by providing opportunities for singers to publicly exhibit, perform, or develop their craft or skills in conjunction with these learning activities;
- To advance the public's appreciation of the arts by establishing and operating a community choir for public choir performances; and
- To undertake activities ancillary and incidental to the aforementioned.

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 artistic leaders, contractors, volunteers and Board of Directors
- 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

ARTISTIC TEAM

The Big Rock Singers believe that music and singing can quite literally change lives. Our **people** are the heart and soul of our choir – our singers and our artistic leaders.

We are very fortunate to have amazing contracted artistic leaders. This talented and dedicated team of professionals are responsible for all aspects of our show production, along with our Technical Director and with support from our Section Leaders.

Our leadership team is highly organized, detail oriented and does an incredible amount of preparatory work ahead of each season. Our section leaders are strong and empathetic, willing to give generously of their time to assist fellow choristers.

Artistic Director: Carey Gruber

Music Director: Carey Gruber (Christmas Choir, Spring Concert Choir, Spring Show Choir)

Accompanist: Antonina Cox

Choreographer: Jocelyn Leiver

Technical Director (volunteer): Brian Zelt

Section Leaders (volunteer): Vary seasonally

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 and other fun local events during the holiday season!

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

Spring

Our Spring season starts the first week of January and usually ends the first or second week of May. The Spring season 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 in fewer songs and with 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 are cast 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. You do not need to be a professional-level singer - but we do ask that you prepare your music so you honour your section, your choir, your leaders, the music, the audience - and so you honour yourself.

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. Each season, 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 work with you - all requests are completely confidential - info@bigrocksingers.com

Volunteerism Commitment

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.



Your enthusiastic contribution of time, talent and energy, both during the choir year and during Show Week, is valued and appreciated!

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 care and concern for the people in our choir extends outside the parameters of rehearsals and performances – we are a choir family! Our Choir Care Committee 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 **Okotoks United Church**, 43 Riverside Drive.

Christmas Season

- Wednesdays – 6:30 to 8:30pm (Full Choir) and 8:30 to 9:30pm (Ensembles)
- Three Saturday mornings (usually once each month Sept/Oct/Nov) for a Workshop Rehearsal

Spring Season

- **Concert Choir:** Wednesdays – 6:30 to 8:30pm and usually 3-4 Saturdays (half or full days)
- **Show Choir:** Wednesdays – 6:30 to 9:30pm 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 they are incredibly 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 practices

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 Artistic/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 (during applicable years) with the rest of our repertoire focused on Christmas. To provide continuity and flow to our performance, our repertoire for each season is thoughtfully chosen by our Artistic/Music Director, with 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 Artistic/Music 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 – you can do it! 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 we hold auditions is for those wishing to sing one of the solo parts. This occurs mainly in the Spring season, but there are sometimes solo opportunities in the Christmas season, as well. Our Artistic/Music 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 the Big Rock Singers continue the proud tradition of singing in the Town of Okotoks Remembrance Day ceremony, held at the Centennial Arenas in Okotoks.

- 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 take place on the first or second weekend 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 Artistic/Music Director.

Spring

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

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 usually followed by our Christmas Wind-Up Party – great fun for our singers and spouses!

Other – Hospice, Light Up Okotoks, Local Events (Canada Day, Okotoks Dawgs etc.)

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 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 portion of show ticket proceeds to local charity organizations.

TOUR PERFORMANCES

Choir tours promote the arts, 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!

Austria, 2015

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 music experience in Vienna and Salzburg, Austria where we participated in the "International Advent Sing" Festival in November 2015. This event proved to be an incredible opportunity to learn a diverse program of music befitting this event and to represent our community and country while performing in remarkable historic venues and immersing ourselves in Austrian music and culture.

Ireland, 2019

Our second international tour took place in July 2019, when our Tour Choir embarked on a 9-day performance tour of Ireland. We brought our Canadian spirit and southern Alberta culture to performances in Clonmacnoise, Kylemore Abbey, Killarney, Blarney Castle, Kinsale, Rock of Cashel and Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin! Memories of a lifetime!

Italy, 2023

In April 2023 our Tour Choir represented Okotoks, Alberta and Canada in the Verona International Choral Competition, as well as performing in Bardolino, Florence, Rome and at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican! This 12-day tour was filled with incredible music and learning experiences – we sang in FIVE languages! Unforgettable memories were made of singing in these awe-inspiring places!

Tour, 2026

A next international choir tour is in the works – potentially in 2026. All are welcome – but don't delay in contacting us at info@bigrocksingers.com to indicate your interest in being part of the music and memories on the next tour - you'll be glad you did!

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 an Instagram page, a public Facebook page and two Facebook member groups. We hope all members will take a moment to join – like – or follow these pages!

Instagram - “BIG ROCK SINGERS”

Facebook - “BIG ROCK SINGERS” Public 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! Be sure to “share” this page with friends and family members – please “invite” them to “like” this page too!

Facebook - “BRS CHOIR FAMILY” Members Facebook Group

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 (present and past) and by our Artistic/Music Director and Board!

Facebook - “Big Rock Singers CHRISTMAS or SPRING Members” Season Facebook Group

This page changes name each season and is specifically for current members. This is where singers can find and share information pertaining specifically to the current season.

GOVERNANCE

Society - Charity

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 Board of Directors is responsible for legal and financial matters pertaining to the Society. The Board, including our Artistic/Music Director, meet each month 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, Fundraising, Health & Safety, Social, Choir Care, Music Library Team, 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 needed.

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 Society, we are also eligible for casino funding through AGLC and grant funding from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and other sources.

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 very challenging for our Artistic/Music Director's timeline of preparation towards Show Day.

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 Show 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, you are responsible for contacting our Artistic/Music 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 Artistic Team.

Illness

Please do NOT attend rehearsal if:

- You have a non-negotiable life/work conflict
- You have a highly contagious illness
- You are too weak/in pain to be with us

Please DO attend rehearsal if:

- You have a cold, but are not contagious (wearing a mask is encouraged)
- You have vocal issues, but are otherwise healthy (sit out and watch, or stand with us)

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 result in non-performance of the singer, at the discretion of the Artistic Team.

CHOIR MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

Be Respectful

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

- 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 and movement abilities among the members of our choir, and we never want anyone to feel less than welcome and accepted.
- Peer-to-peer feedback can be problematic in the community choir context, especially if it is given in absence of agreement from the recipient. Before providing feedback or peer direction to another singer, check to ensure a well-intentioned reminder will be received positively.
- When people around you seem to be struggling with a vocal line or blocking placement, raise your hand and ask the Director/Choreographer. It is not necessary to point out those who are singing/standing/moving incorrectly – allow that person to correct him/herself.
- Help maintain a professional and uplifting atmosphere at all rehearsals and performances by demonstrating respect and courtesy to fellow choir members, Artistic/Music Director, Accompanist and Choreographer.
- Seek to uphold BRS Choir Member Guidelines without facilitating negativity or criticism, and instead direct constructive and appropriate comments and requests to the applicable leadership within the choir.

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 an important aspect, and 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 Artistic/Music Director and is a hindrance to your fellow singers. Rehearsal time is reserved for preparation of the music – not for socializing. Please plan to arrive before rehearsal starts to visit with choir friends.
- Additionally, please show respect for the Artistic/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.
- Please refrain from cell phone use for texting, scrolling or sharing during rehearsal.

Be a Team Player

- 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.
- Do not use the name of this organization or its members 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 in any forum.

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 Artistic/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!

CHOIR MEMBER HINTS AND TIPS

A Great Choir Singer Always...

- Warms up the voice by singing gently before rehearsal.
- Is seated and ready to start rehearsing on time.
- Stows belongings outside the rehearsal area, to avoid tripping hazards.
- Has music ready and organized in a black folder/binder.
- Has pencil / highlighter in hand and uses them to mark the score.
- Holds music high enough to watch the Director at all times.
- Sits upright on the edge of the seat with feet flat on the floor.
- Refrains from using any mobile device during rehearsal.
- Respects everyone's time and saves chatter for designated breaks.

- Is a focused, respectful listener – to the Director and others.
- Maintains rehearsal focus by not talking when the Director is speaking.
- Pays close attention when the Director is working with another section.
- Sips water frequently during rehearsals to keep vocal folds hydrated.
- Sings without out-singing others, to assist the beautiful blend of all voices.
- Practices between rehearsals and participates in the sectional practices.
- Memorizes repertoire and choreography according to the schedule.
- Stays positive, maintaining a spirit of fun and good humour.
- Approaches differences of opinion with others in a kind and respectful way
- Refrains from using highly scented products on rehearsal and performance days.
- Avoids garlic/onions etc. before/on rehearsal and performance days.
- Assists with tear down and clean up after rehearsal.
- Embraces the joy of making beautiful music together!

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROTOCOL (SEPT/24 UPDATE)

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

In instances of singer conflict **during rehearsal**, please alert the Artistic/Music Director immediately, so the concern can be addressed in the moment. Do not assume that the Artistic Team sees and hears every singer interaction, in a large group, during a busy rehearsal.

General or ongoing instances of interpersonal conflict and/or differences of opinion are to be handled between the parties involved, directly. Choir members are asked **not** to contact members of the Board or Artistic Team without first having direct communication with all parties involved.

We are a large adult group. Differences of approach and opinion are common. However, resolution of concerns must occur between the individuals involved, in a respectful and open manner. Concerns brought to either a Board or Artistic Team member without direct communication between those involved will be directed back to the member, as per this statement.

We are all here for the joy of singing, learning and performing. These things must remain the focus in a collaborative and creative space, where all people bring value and are valued.

Kind and respectful interactions among choir members make 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, 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 disrespect, hatred, or profanity.
- BRS reserves the right to remove postings that are deemed inappropriate, offensive or that violate guidelines of the Choir Member 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 this Code of Conduct.

Keep It Legal

- 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.
- 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

- Do not "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.
- 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.

Protect Your Privacy

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

Uphold the Code

- BRS reserves the right to amend or change this Code of Conduct at any time without notice. You agree to periodically review this document to ensure you are doing your part.
- BRS reserves the right to remove at any time, without notice, any posting to a BRS site.
- BRS is not obligated to send a warning before deleting any content from any Communication Services platform.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PERMISSION

Upon becoming a member of the Big Rock Singers, all singers acknowledge that Big Rock Singers performances are often recorded (audio and video) and photographed for archival and promotional purposes.

Membership in the Big Rock Singers, and agreement with the Terms of Participation (as below) includes your consent that said photos, video and audio recordings may appear without singer consent or knowledge as marketing tools through the internet and/or other forms of media publicity *in perpetuity*.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

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

1. I have read the guidelines contained within the Choir Member Handbook and agree to abide by them, including:
 - Volunteerism Commitment (p. 5)
 - Attendance Policy (p. 11)
 - Choir Member Code of Conduct (p. 12)

- Dispute Resolution Protocol (p. 14)
 - Social Media Code of Conduct (p. 14)
 - Photographic Permission (p. 16)
2. I understand that violation of the guidelines contained within the Choir Member Handbook may result in revocation of membership in the Big Rock Singers Society, at the discretion of the Board of Directors and Artistic/Music Director.
 3. I understand and will uphold, support and promote the Mission, Vision, Objectives and Core Values of the Big Rock Singers Society.

Signature_____

Date_____