

Detroit-Oakland Grosse Pointe Chapter — Basic Precepts

Our Mission

The Detroit-Oakland Grosse Pointe Chapter is dedicated to bringing friends and members together for the fun and enjoyment of barbershop harmony; developing our vocal talents and capabilities; reaching out in service to the community; and consistently improving our performance capabilities, so that each time we sing together, we perform at the best level we possibly can.

Key Strategies

In order to achieve our mission, we plan to pursue several strategies, including:

- Make our weekly rehearsals enjoyable and rewarding, with a mixture of vocal development, performance improvement, social, and other activities, focusing on singing in the barbershop style
- Provide our members with performance opportunities which allow us to share our music in service to the community, raise funds to support our philanthropic goals, and generally enjoy this wonderful hobby
- Select musical numbers for our members to perform that we enjoy singing, that our audiences enjoy seeing and hearing us perform, and that satisfy our artistic and creative senses
- Employ a Musical Director and external coaches to lead, teach and inspire us to develop our talents and capabilities and improve our levels of performance
- Encourage other singers to join us as members of our chapter, for their benefit as well as ours.

Responsibilities

For us to succeed at these strategies and to achieve our overall mission, we all have some level of responsibility to the chapter, chorus and to each other, which include:

Chorus Members

- Those members that wish to be performing members of the chorus are encouraged to attend chapter meetings and chorus rehearsals on a regular basis. (We all understand that external events make it unreasonable to expect any of us to attend weekly meetings 100% of the time. In order to fully develop our vocal talents and performance capabilities, each performing member should strive for 100% attendance. We also understand that not all members of the chapter wish to be performing members of the chorus and need not strive for perfect attendance.)
- Members who attend our weekly meetings should strive to arrive on-time and stay until the end of the meeting.
- To support joint learning and facilitate assessment of performance by voice part, each member should align himself with the group by sitting or standing within his section or in his spot on the risers during rehearsal time. This provides support for all members of the section and the chorus as a whole.
- To support our objective of performing to the best of our ability each time we perform, chorus members need to be committed to learning the notes, words and stage presence for all songs we perform in public. This may include working with the music, CDs/learning tracks, choreography sheets and/or videos during each member's personal time at home or in the car.
- In order to facilitate our ability to develop and improve our vocal performance levels and make most efficient use of our rehearsal time, members are asked to be courteous to our Director, Assistant Directors, coaches and other chorus members by maintaining a quiet level of attention when one of our leaders is addressing the chorus.
- To support our objective of consistently improving our performance capabilities, members are asked to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement privately to the Director, Assistant Director, or coach, at an appropriate time. On the other hand, public questions from the membership for clarification of any instruction provided is perfectly appropriate and encouraged, as those requests allow us all to hear the answers together.

- Members are encouraged to volunteer to support the chorus with one or more of the various tasks that need to be performed to keep the chapter going, as individual time schedules, skills and physical abilities permit.

Assistant Directors, Music Team, & Section Leaders

- Participate in the process of selecting music for us to sing, whether for our annual show, for contest performances, for seasonal (Christmas) activities, or for our general repertoire
- Work with the Music Director to evaluate our performance capabilities, to develop plans for continued improvement, and to employ outside coaches to assist us in our music and performance development
- Oversee the selection of an annual show chairman; support him in planning and conducting our annual show
- Work with the Program VP to plan and coordinate musical performance aspects of all chapter program activities
- Work with the Membership VP to perform a vocal evaluation of prospective members and provide feedback regarding suitability for membership before consideration by the Board
- Work with members of the chorus, supporting the Music Director in developing our performance capabilities. This may include leading section rehearsals as well as providing coaching and feedback to individual chorus members.
- Support the members of the chorus by assisting in the creation or acquisition of learning CDs/tracks and in development and documentation of choreography associated with the songs we sing
- Provide our members with time for focused, concentrated learning and rehearsal time, while also providing time for casual conversation, informal singing and other fun activities.

Music Director

- Lead our weekly chorus rehearsals, including warm-up activities, vocal craft instruction, teaching new songs, and developing our ability to perform those songs
- Create a weekly rehearsal plan and publish to all chorus members prior to the rehearsal.
- Provide inspiration to our members, encouraging them to develop their music and performance capabilities
- Oversee and direct our musical performance at contests, annual shows, and other performance events of the chorus
- Recruit, train and develop Assistant Directors to support chorus leadership functions, both at weekly rehearsals and at outside performance events
- Work with external coaches, Assistant Directors, the Music Team and Section Leaders to support our musical development and performance capabilities

Board of Directors

- Oversee all aspects of chapter operations, including strategic planning, program activities, music and performance, membership development and financial functions
- Ensure that the chapter operates within the overall parameters of our charter and standing regulations
- Enact changes to those standing regulations as necessary
- Support recruitment of volunteers within the chapter to perform the wide variety of assignments that must be completed on a day-to-day basis
- Oversee the employment of a Music Director.