



DETROIT LUTHERAN  
*Singers*

**DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS**

**MEMBERS HANDBOOK**

**2016-2017**

## Contact Information

### Detroit Lutheran Singers

c/o Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
30003 Ryan Road  
Warren, MI 48092

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## Key People

Director	Christopher Hall	248-747-7966	<a href="mailto:clhpub@yahoo.com">clhpub@yahoo.com</a>
Accompanist	Doris Hall	248-747-7966	<a href="mailto:dhallorg@yahoo.com">dhallorg@yahoo.com</a>
Librarian	Roy Wise	586-759-4849	<a href="mailto:tsiolkovski51@yahoo.com">tsiolkovski51@yahoo.com</a>
Marketing & Communications Director	Sharon Ulep	248-723-5755	<a href="mailto:sharonulep@hotmail.com">sharonulep@hotmail.com</a>

## Board Members

President	Gretchen Sturhan	248-227-1969	<a href="mailto:gebubolz@gmail.com">gebubolz@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Sean Neall	248-835-7226	<a href="mailto:smn1@usa.net">smn1@usa.net</a>
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Concert Manager	Norma Sander	248-895-0018	<a href="mailto:bethnorma@aol.com">bethnorma@aol.com</a>
Section - Soprano	Judy Reger	734-455-3565	<a href="mailto:jrreger3@wowway.com">jrreger3@wowway.com</a>
Section - Alto	Peggy Dalton	734-459-9440	<a href="mailto:peggydalton@yahoo.com">peggydalton@yahoo.com</a>
Section - Tenor	David Bryer	313-274-2054	<a href="mailto:david.bryer@outlook.com">david.bryer@outlook.com</a>
Section - Bass	Sean Neall	248-835-7226	<a href="mailto:smn1@usa.net">smn1@usa.net</a>

## Membership

There is no membership fee for singing with the DLS. In lieu of a fee, each singer is asked to be responsible for the sale of ten \$10 tickets per choral season (September through April).

## Attendance Policy

The Detroit Lutheran Singers Board of Directors wishes to emphasize the importance of every member making a firm commitment to the DLS, for only by each singer participating fully in all rehearsals can the choir achieve the level of excellence in performance for which we strive. To encourage all members to make that effort, the Board is affirming this Attendance Policy.

It is understood that there will be times when previous commitments, illness, work or weather intervene, and rehearsals are missed. When those times occur, the Board requests that the singer contact their Section Leader as soon as possible.

That being said, any absences are detrimental to the group. Two absences equals 25 to 30 percent of rehearsals missed during any given concert series. The DLS level of performance excellence cannot be maintained with any singer missing that many rehearsals. If attendance becomes an issue, the Section Leader will talk with the singer to see if there is a problem that can be addressed and/or resolved.

After two absences, the Director will be informed and the singer's participation in that given concert series will then be at the Director's discretion. In the course of one choral season – if the singer is absent for one-fourth of all rehearsals – the Board, the Director and the singer will need to discuss whether the singer is serious about their continued involvement with the DLS.

Each member of the DLS makes a commitment to the choir at audition. The Board understands that participating in the DLS takes time, dedication and effort. In fairness to the other members, if a singer feels that they cannot live up to that commitment, then they need to reevaluate their participation in the DLS.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

## Rehearsals

- Weekly rehearsals are scheduled for Monday evenings, 7:15 – 9:15 pm, located at First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple Road, Birmingham, MI.
- There will be a brief 10-15 minute break during the rehearsal, allowing time for any announcements and to provide fellowship opportunities for DLS members.
- Following any absence, it is the singer's responsibility to ask their Section Leader for markings to new pieces, any announcements and schedule changes prior to the next scheduled rehearsal.

## DLS Expectations

### *Rehearsal Decorum*

Talking during rehearsals is disruptive and inappropriate; please restrict conversations to break time. Brief rehearsal-pertinent questions to the conductor are welcomed. Remain alert and attentive during rehearsals.

### *Mark Your Music*

Bring a pencil to every rehearsal. Professional musicians mark their scores. Each director will impose their own artistic interpretation to each piece, so markings should be made IN PENCIL to denote measures, tempo, solfeggio syllables, phrasing, dynamic markings, etc.

### *Prepare Your Music*

Rehearsals are for the purpose of perfecting blend, balance and interpretation – not for teaching notes and rhythms. **Study your part at home and come to rehearsals PREPARED.**

## Concert Dress

*For Men:* It is the responsibility of each male singer to provide his own:

- Single-breasted black tuxedo - clean, in good repair and of appropriate size
- White tuxedo shirt with pleated front and winged collar; black studs
- Standard wrap-around bow tie of color appropriate to the season (provided)
- Well-polished black shoes with black socks
- Black cummerbund (when worn)
- Black- or tie-matching cuff links
- Earrings – small black stud only
- Have hair trimmed and groomed
- **DO NOT** wear after shave, scented colognes and/or scented hair dressings

*For Women:* It is the responsibility of each female singer to purchase the DLS gown, or find a former member who may wish to loan or sell. DLS wears the “Lieder Dress,” item D223, from Southeastern Performance Apparel ([www.sepapparel.com](http://www.sepapparel.com), 800-821-8270)

- The hemline is to be two inches above the floor
- Jewelry: Necklace – pearl (provided/can be purchased) Earrings – small pearl only
- Footwear: Comfortable black closed-toe shoes, with sheer black hose
- Makeup: discrete use, please
- Hair: Should be formally styled on a level with the dress
- **DO NOT** wear perfumes, scented lotions and/or scented hairsprays

### *For All:*

- A black DLS performance folder will be provided for your music
- Always remain in concert dress for afterglows
- Be aware of the physical demands of singing a concert. You will be climbing up and down risers, and standing for long periods of time in close quarters under hot lights. Prepare for this accordingly
- **NO** scented hair products, colognes, after-shaves, perfumes, lotions, etc.

## Concert Department

### *Dress Rehearsals*

- Promptness is expected.
- Concert dress is not necessary for dress rehearsals.
- Every effort will be made to hold dress rehearsals at the concert venue.

### *Call Times*

- Call Times for concerts are usually 60 – 75 minutes prior to performance. Allow extra travel time if the location is unfamiliar. Promptness is expected.
- At call time you should be in concert dress, on stage and ready to warm up. You should also have all music arranged in performance order and gently taped or clipped as necessary to minimize page turns.
- The performance venue is cleared no later than half an hour before concert time, when the house will be opened to patrons. The performers should not appear until the performance begins.

### *During Performance*

- Avoid excessive body and head movements that draw attention to you and distract other singers standing near or behind you. The focus should be on the group and on the music, not an individual singer.
- Be sure to hold your folder up to facilitate eye contact with the director.
- When done singing each piece, do not move until the director signals the conclusion.
- Do not react to musical errors.
- When a soloist is singing, do not follow in the music. You should watch the soloist and the director. Have your next entrance marked in your music.
- Talking on stage is neither appropriate nor professional.
- Never applaud soloists or musicians while on stage. An attentive smile is a fine tribute to other performers.

### *Entrances, Exits, Cues, and Curtain Calls*

- Stage entrances and exits are always in a stately, dignified manner. Do not rush!
- Stage entrances and exits are always made with the music folder down and at your side, AWAY from the audience.
- Hold folders by your side until given a cue to raise and open them by the director.
- Sit and stand on cue as quietly and gracefully as possible. Be sure to write in such cues in your program. DO NOT cross your legs while sitting.
- Orchestra and soloist bows will be cued. Acknowledge applause and curtain calls gracefully with a smile. Pay close attention to the conductor for encores.

### **Professional Courtesy**

- **No smoking** at rehearsals and concerts.
- **DO NOT** use perfumes, after-shaves, and scented products. Others may find them offensive or allergenic. By the same token avoid foods with lingering odors.
- Be supportive of other performers. Critiques during a concert – or within earshot of any audience member – are unprofessional.
- Keep the rehearsal and concert sites neat. Place coats and bags in designated areas only. Be respectful in churches. Do not bring in food or drink into the concert site.
- When an orchestra or individual players are present, there are some special considerations. When the orchestra prepares to tune, strict silence must be observed. Additionally, musical instruments are expensive and easy to damage. Keep away from areas where instruments/cases are stored and allow plenty of room for the instrumentalists (with or without their instruments) to maneuver.
- When performing with an outside orchestra or conductor, remember that their impression of the Detroit Lutheran Singers will affect potential future engagements.

### **More than “Just Singing”**

The Detroit Lutheran Singers are more than “just singers” – we are a professional performance choir as well as “family”. As a member of this family, there are many opportunities for you to GET INVOLVED! You are encouraged to actively participate in:

- Promoting the concert performances and selling tickets.
- Encouraging new members to audition.
- Encouraging family and friends to become a Friend of the Detroit Lutheran Singers.

*~ SOLI DEO GLORIA ~*