

Singapore Symphony Chorus – Rehearsal & Concert Guidelines

Rehearsals

The rehearsals planned for each concert is described in a **Rehearsal Schedule**, which is given to all singers in advance.

Generally, there is a weekly rehearsal every Monday in Victoria Concert Hall (VCH) 7.30 pm - 10.15 pm. However, additional rehearsals on other days may be scheduled at the discretion of the Music Director.

Where possible, the Focus Group will arrange for an informal warm-up at 7.15 pm on stage. You are encouraged to participate in these sessions.

On the week of the concert, there will be rehearsals with the SSO on the other weekdays at Esplanade Concert Hall. These are important rehearsals that should not be missed.

On concert nights, unless otherwise advised, warm-up begins at 6.00 pm.

Entrance to the Esplanade Concert Hall is through the Stage Door, which is near the box office.

Attendance

- Rehearsals begin at 7:30 pm sharp. Punctuality is essential.
- You should attend all rehearsals and arrive on time. If you are unable to make it or you will be late, you should **leave a note to the Music Director in the message file** (next to the attendance lists) *beforehand* or contact the Chorus Administrator at 9647-0271.
- You are required to sign the attendance lists before each rehearsal.
- You are expected to stay for the entire rehearsal. The SSC Music Director should be notified in the event that a member has to leave a rehearsal before dismissal.
- **During concert week, attendance at all rehearsals and performances is compulsory** unless prior approval is obtained from the SSC Music Director for extenuating circumstances.

Conduct

- Always have your own score. Always bring a soft pencil and an eraser with which to mark your score. Under no circumstances should a pen or highlighter be used.
- Rehearsal time is precious and often there is a lot of material to be covered in a very short time. Also, choral singing requires a high level of teamwork. Hence, you must conduct yourself in a professional manner, and be attentive during rehearsals.
- Please refrain from talking during rehearsals.
- Do not be distracted by the arrival of latecomers. Stay focused on the conductor and the work being performed.
- Do not tap out the beat as this can be distracting to other singers and only the conductor's beat should be followed.
- The rehearsal is meant solely for interpretation and never for learning notes. Thus, it is vital that members take responsibility for learning the music. It is not possible to rely solely on what is taught during rehearsals. Practice between rehearsals is necessary.

Concerts

To perform in a concert, at least 80% of rehearsals must be attended. If more rehearsals are missed your participation in the performance will be at the discretion of the Music Director.

Preparation

- **Attendance at all rehearsals during concert week is mandatory** in order to plan seating and adjust the concert hall. MAKE PRIOR ARRANGMENTS to ensure you can attend. Inform the Music Director and the Chorus Administrator if your absence is unavoidable.
- Allow plenty of time for travelling and parking.
- Attend pre-concert warm-ups – these are compulsory: there may even be last minute changes to direction - those who don't make it may miss out on key information.
- Take note of your seating position, so that the filing in process is smooth and calm.

Concert Attire

Attire for concerts, unless otherwise stated, is:

Gentlemen:

- Black suit (dinner jacket/tuxedo)
- Black bow tie
- Black shoes and black socks
- White shirt

Ladies:

- All black, ankle- to floor-length, long-sleeved gown or Ankle- to floor-length black skirt or slacks with long-sleeved black blouse
- Black shoes (no sandals)
- Discreet accessories

Stage Conduct

Once you are on stage, you are there as part of one body of performers, committed together to providing a good performance. Proper conduct on stage shows this commitment.

- Bring your black folder to the concert venue. Folders are to be carried on and off stage in the hand facing the audience with the SSC logo facing out.
- Do NOT cross your legs while on stage!
- Once on stage, always bear in mind that anything that could distract your fellow performers and the audience (talking, noises, tapping and other actions) must be avoided.
- Refrain from talking on stage. Allow the orchestra to tune without interruption.
- Sit and stand in a single movement. While singing, remain still but relaxed.
- Resist the urge to adjust glasses, flip hair, scratch your nose, etc. and do not respond to movement in the audience.
- Stand still during concerts, with good singing posture and knees unlocked. Avoid distracting the audience during a performance: do not speak to other singers; do not hum a pitch before singing; do not unwrap throat lozenges. Minimize movement and appear engaged.
- Avoid heavy perfumes, cologne, scented hairspray, or similar items, since other singers may be allergic to them and heat from stage lights may amplify fragrances.
- Do not bring water on stage. Leave all personal belongings, including handbags, mobile phones and water bottles, in the designated chorus dressing rooms.

Page Turns

- Page turns can be noisy and distracting if not done properly. Always prepare early for page turns. Turn pages quietly and slowly, and at an appropriate moment, eg. during loud passages
- Do not turn your page during solos or quiet passages.
- When not singing, either follow the score or turn to the next entry. Do not flick pages back and forth as this indicates to the audience that you are bored.
- Mark ahead of time where your next entrance is (eg. with a Post-it) and know the cues to your entrance so that you don't need to follow along.
- Do not put your music down during solos, between movements of a piece, or between pieces (unless instructed by the conductor).
- After finishing the last piece before an intermission or the last piece of the concert, put your music down as soon as the audience starts clapping. Folders should be held in the same hand as upon entry.

Applause and Concert Etiquette

- Do not applaud the arrival of the concert master (lead violinist) at the beginning of the concert nor in between movements.
- Sit and stand with the orchestra.
- After the concert, do not applaud the conductor or soloists until after the chorus has taken its first bow.
- Take cues from the orchestra at the end of the performance in response to applause.