

GENERAL INFORMATION 2012-2013

Office Address: Mailing – PO Box 3358, Abilene, TX 79604
Physical – 1174 N. 1st, corner of N. 1st & Cedar – use Cedar St. entrance
Office Phone: 325-673-SING (7464)
Office Email: info@ChorusAbilene.net **Website:** www.ChorusAbilene.net
Office Assistant: Marisue Meyer (Monday & Tuesday)
Office Hours: 10 – 2, Monday-Friday (usually wise to call before coming)

Dr. Michael Scarbrough, Conductor

Office Telephone: 674-2143 Email: scarbroughm@acu.edu

Gwynn Haseltine, Executive Director

Office Email: gwynn@chorusabilene.net Home Email: ghaseltine@suddenlink.net
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Chorus Abilene was founded in 1990-1991 with 23 adult singers as The Classical Chorus of Abilene, Inc., by Dr. Betty Karol Wilson who successfully led the chorus for fourteen seasons. Dr. Paul Piersall served as conductor for the chorus for six years, before stepping down in 2011.

Chorus Abilene is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The chorus is not affiliated with AISD, any of the three universities in Abilene, or any church. Chorus Abilene is artistically and financially independent and therefore must raise all its own funds and supply all its own needs. Funding comes from singer tuition, ticket sales, fundraising events, individual and corporate donors, and, if awarded, grants from foundations and arts councils.

The Classical Chorus, as the adult chorus is known, sings a variety of repertoire: oratorios, masses, and motets, as well as spirituals and contemporary secular literature. They have performed *The Messiah*; Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de Confessore*, K. 339, Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices*; Mozart's *Requiem*, *Coronation Mass*, & *Cantata #14*; Haydn's *Mass in Time of War & Lord Nelson's Mass*; Beethoven's 9th; the Texas premiere of Handel's *Solomon*; Orff's *Carmina Burana*; Brahms' *A German Requiem*, *St. John's Passion*; Verdi's *Requiem*; Faure's *Requiem*, and both Verdi & Rossini's *Stabat Mater*; among many other things.

The Classical Chorus has performed numerous times with the Abilene Philharmonic and with the Texas Baroque Ensemble and the Mercury Baroque Ensemble, in addition to collaborating with the Abilene Ballet Theatre and the Abilene Community Band.

Other choirs include: **Youth Chorus**, grades 5-8; **Chorale**, grades 9-12; and **Children's Chorus**, grades 1-4.

COMMUNICATION

Because the office is open when most singers are also at work, much of our communication is done via email. Please check your email regularly to stay up to date on needed information. Feel free to call the office and leave a message or email questions at any time.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Dr. Michael Scarbrough is beginning his first season of directing the Classical Chorus, although he conducted a concert in 2011 during a year of search. He joined the ACU faculty in 1982, and currently serves as Professor of Music and Voice, directs the Opera Workshop, and teaches courses in vocal pedagogy and private voice. He served as Director of Choral Activities and Conductor of the A Cappella Chorus at ACU from 1993-2009. He is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, the Texas Choral Directors Assoc., and the American Choral Directors Association. He currently serves as the West Texas district governor for the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Dr. Scarbrough received his Bachelor of Music Education with Theory Option degree from McMurry University, his Master of Church Music degree from Scarritt College in Nashville Tennessee, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

As a voice teacher, he has demonstrated great success with students of all levels, placing high school students in the Texas All-State choir, and university students in such prestigious graduate schools as the Cincinnati Conservatory, Florida State University, the University of Colorado, Boston Conservatory, and Arizona State University. He also works in an advisory capacity to several professional singers.

In demand as a conductor and clinician, Dr. Scarbrough has conducted choirs in Tennessee, Arizona and Texas, including the Texas Private School's All-State Choir. He has toured with choral groups throughout the U.S., and in Europe and South America. Under his direction, the ACU A Cappella Chorus performed at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, TX and the Wortham Center in Houston, TX. In 2008, he conducted members of the A Cappella Chorus in a live radio broadcast of A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor for an audience of over seven million.

Shirley Anderson, accompanist, is beginning her sixteenth year with the Classical Chorus. She is an honor graduate of Hardin-Simmons with Bachelor's and Masters degrees in Music. While a student, she was recipient of the Dean's Honor Award, the SAI scholarship, and winner of the TMTA Composition Contest. She has maintained a successful independent piano studio in Abilene for 38 years, teaching preschool through adult students. Abilene Music Teachers Association selected Mrs. Anderson as Teacher of the Year in 1979, 1984, and 2003. In 1995 Texas Music Teachers Association presented her the prestigious award for Outstanding Pre-College Teaching. She has held numerous offices in AMTA and during her presidency in 2002, Abilene MTA was chosen as the Outstanding Local Association of the Year by Music Teachers National Association.

In addition to her work with the Classical Chorus, Mrs. Anderson teaches class piano and serves as a staff accompanist at Hardin-Simmons University. She is the pianist at Lytle South Baptist Church. She is married to chorus charter member Marcus Anderson. They have one daughter and two grandchildren.

Performance Dates (see list on last page)

October 6	Fall concert – all choirs
Nov. 17	Fall Fundraiser – all choirs
Dec. 8	Christmas concert – all choirs
Apr. 13	Masterworks concert - adults only
May 25	Encore! – adult only spring fundraising event

ABSENCE POLICY

While the Classical Chorus does not have a formalized absence policy, it is expected that as adults all singers treat their commitment seriously. At times, if you have missed several rehearsals, the conductor may ask you to sing your music to see if you will be able to perform. If not acceptable, he may ask that you not sing a particular concert. Just because you may know your notes does not mean that you know the nuances of the music that the conductor desires nor any of the particular decisions that were made regarding a passage at the rehearsal.

Please be respectful of all those in the Chorus who are relying on your participation at performances and scheduled events. It DOES make a difference to your section and to the person standing next to you if you are absent. Although we know that work commitments may arise suddenly, please do not cancel your Chorus commitment for a social (or other) event planned later when we have worked hard to give you this schedule well in advance.

Please notify Dr. Scarbrough or Marcus Anderson of any planned absences at least one week prior to the absence. In addition, please email or call with any last minute illness, etc. It is very helpful to have knowledge of why singers are missing and how many will be gone in order for the conductor to best use the limited time.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Rehearsals: Mondays, 7-9pm, in the choir room of ACU's Williams Performing Arts Center.

- Arrive at rehearsal at least 5 minutes prior to rehearsal time. At ACU, please remember that classes and recitals sometimes occur at the same time as our rehearsals.
- Always bring your music and a pencil to rehearsal.
- Water is encouraged at rehearsal, but other food or drinks are prohibited.

MUSIC

Rehearsal Procedure:

Music is distributed at the first rehearsal for each concert. A blue tub is brought from the office in which each singer has a green hanging file, alphabetized by last name, which is filled with music for that concert. Please check your music and email the office if you are missing something! Although office records are kept by folder number, it is advisable to pencil in your name on the front of the music, in case of mix-ups. You are ultimately responsible for the replacement cost of the pieces of music that are checked out to you.

We respectfully request that you accept responsibility for your own absence and your music and contact the office about getting your music if you have missed a rehearsal or returning it following a concert.

The music tub will again be available at rehearsal on the Monday following the concert. Please take this time to place your music from the previous concert in your hanging file and take out the music that is no longer needed. Much of our music is borrowed and we must return it in good condition and in a timely fashion!

You are welcome to make notes in your music in pencil. If the music is borrowed, please erase your notes before returning the music.

It requires staff time to track music that is not turned in, as well as requiring money to replace the borrowed music. If music is not returned by 1 month after the concert in which it was performed, a fee of \$3 per octavo will be assessed to the adult singer's account.

In addition, you will need a black 3-ring binder with a matte cover.

Fees

- **Fees are due by the semester: \$125/semester, due by September 1.** This allows us to maintain a stabilized financial footing. You still have the option to sing only a single concert; however our bills remain constant regardless of whether you will miss a concert date. Fees may be paid monthly but the entire semester amount is due regardless of whether or not you are unable to sing a particular concert. Please understand and respect this. **Multiple Family Member Monthly discounts** are available. If you have another family member participating (in any choir), fees are \$100/semester.
- **Tuition scholarships are available** – please let the office know if you would like a form.
- **Registration Fee of \$40/year. Due by Sept. 15.**

Tuition Pays For

Tuition pays the salaries of the professional accompanist and conductor. The adult chorus tuition does not cover the expenses of any administrative, office, or executive staff. Neither does it pay for mailings, hall rental, concert advertising, employee tax, insurance, or other expenses that comprise the operating expenses of Chorus Abilene. These costs must be covered by donations, fundraising proceeds, or concert ticket sales which net beyond the cost of the concert.

PAYMENTS

Reason for payment (tuition, tickets, etc.) should be included on the memo line of any payment made to Chorus Abilene. Your clarification on the memo portion of your check will help us with proper accounting of the money we receive. Cash should **always** be given in an envelope with the singer's name and reason for payments written on the outside.

All checks or money orders should be made payable and **MAILED TO:**

Chorus Abilene PO Box 3358 Abilene, Texas 79604

All checks returned to Chorus Abilene by the member's bank will be charged the same fee per item that is charged to us. **Please mail or bring all payments directly to the Office.** Classical Chorus members may also give payments to Marisue Meyer at rehearsal, **if appropriately marked.**

TICKET SALES

General Public Individual Ticket Sales

Individual tickets to regular concerts are \$10 for Adults and \$8 for seniors, military, and students (see information below for children under 5) for three of the four concerts. Christmas ticket prices are \$15/adults and \$12/seniors, military, & students.

Choir Discounted Ticket Sales

Each singer in Chorus Abilene is entitled to up to 4 discounted individual tickets at \$7/each per concert (please note the change from prior years). Discounted tickets should be ordered and payment received in the office by the Monday rehearsal the week of the concert. An effort will be made to deliver tickets to rehearsal once before each concert, but it saves rehearsal time if you will email your order to the office.

<u>Example</u>	<u>Oct & April Concerts</u>	<u>Christmas Only</u>
Regular Price Adult Individual Ticket	\$10	\$15
Regular Price Sr/St/M Individual Ticket	\$ 8	\$12
Choir Discount Ticket	\$ 7	\$ 7

UNIFORMS & CONCERT INSTRUCTIONS

Informal Choir Uniforms

For the youth, this consists of choir T-shirts and jeans. Classical Chorus members are welcome to buy a \$10 T-shirt to use for fundraising or informal performances; however it is not required. It is suggested that those planning to go on tour purchase a T-shirt.

Formal Uniforms

For women:

- long black skirt and round neck black shirt of your own choosing;
- black formal jacket paid for by singers and ordered through the choir office (cost estimated at \$69); black hose (suggested); and black close-toes shoes (comfort and stability recommended). Black hose need to be all or none.
- Women's jewelry for concerts will consist of studs – dangly earrings can be distracting.
- If you choose to borrow a jacket from the chorus office, a \$7 cleaning fee is required at the end of the year.
- Women, please do not wear perfume or perfumed products to a performance. Even if you put them on early that morning the effect may still linger enough to bother other singers.

For men: black tuxedo, purchased by singer. At this time, there are no tuxedos available to borrow at the office. The office would be glad to help you order, for an approximate cost of \$100.

Concert Information:

- Dress rehearsal, unless otherwise notified, is not really “dress”. Come in comfortable clothes & shoes. Dress rehearsal is typically the morning of the concert and times will vary from concert to concert.
- Concerts begin at 7:30pm; call time is usually 7:00pm unless otherwise notified.

- Please drink plenty of water during the day of the concert.
- Line-up on the risers may not be the same as in rehearsal. However pay attention to where you are placed during dress rehearsal.
- For entrance to the risers, please begin at the end of the risers, go straight up to your row, then walk across in a line. If everyone takes a step up (or down) in random places, it looks extremely messy from the audience. For exiting, walk to the end of the row and then step down to the floor.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a continual activity shared by all singers, and the Board of Directors. **The money from these fundraisers is applied to operating expenses.** Fundraisers are crucial in keeping costs where they are now.

Fall Fundraising Dinner: This fund-raiser has been held for 15 years and it is a great casual, family-type dinner. Tickets are \$6 each and each singer is asked to sell 10 tickets or make an equivalent donation. In addition, we ask that chorus members volunteer in some capacity for the event. The Choruses perform while everyone enjoys dinner. Dinner and a concert for \$6 – can't be beat!

Encore: Encore is a fairly new event, first performed in May, 2009. It is a lot of fun and a great chance for individual and small group performances in a more intimate setting. By member acclaim, it was incorporated into an annual event. Tickets are \$25/each or \$40/couple. Guests are seated at tables of 8 and a buffet of simple finger foods is served. In addition, there is a silent auction available. The choir performs as a whole, but most of the performance is comprised of soloists and small groups. In addition to ticket sales and the silent auction, sponsorships are solicited at the \$150, \$300, \$500, and \$1,000 levels. Sponsorships provide much of the income for the event and we ask that everyone participate in soliciting them.

While all singers may not be able to participate due to work schedules, please realize that tuition for May is included in your semester fee. We also ask that you respect other chorus members and plan to participate if you have no work (or graduation) conflicts even if this is not your favorite kind of music. In addition, we hope that those who are not able to sing will accept some sort of volunteer role that can take place ahead of time (such as soliciting sponsorships) – this fundraiser will be very important in making ends meet in May when there is no other income.

Tour

The Adult Chorus toured Vienna, Krakow, & Prague in 2008 and from Rome to Athens in 2011. At this time, no tours are planned but please let us know if you would be interested in the future.

Donations

Chorus Abilene, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We exist on donations from individuals, and, when awarded, grants from arts organizations, foundations, and corporations. As adults in the business world, your connections will reach in many different directions that just the office staff. All of these connections can be used to support choral music in our community.

Encouraging your friends and business associates to support us is necessary and greatly appreciated. The office will be happy to provide a list of ways individuals and businesses can help and the appropriate documentation. It is often as simple as asking.

Tax-deductible donations should be sent to the office at PO Box 3358, Abilene, TX. 79604. Individual and Corporate donor names are listed in the concert programs, newsletters and on our website.

Gifts given in memory or honor of a loved one will be acknowledged by the Board of Directors, and if instructed so by the donor, names will be printed in the next program.

Other ways to help include: scholarships for a deserving singer; assisting the chorus in the creation of an endowment; concert sponsorships; Encore sponsorships; ads for our programs; choir sponsorships; donations for music purchases; and youth tour scholarship donations. Please contact Gwynn Haseltine for more information.

Calendar 2012-13

September 3	Adult first rehearsal
October 6	Fall Concert – (all) morning dress rehearsal (6 rehearsals) St. Paul UMC, 7:30pm
Nov. 17	Fall Fundraiser (all) St. Paul UMC Activity Bldg., 5-7pm
Dec. 8	Christmas Concert (all) dress rehearsal 9:30 - noon (8 or 9 rehearsals) Aldersgate UMC, 7:30pm
Dec. 14, 15	Collaborative Fundraising event with ACT (does not involve our choirs)
Jan 14	Adult first rehearsal
Feb. 23	Spotlight (Youth choirs only)
March 2	Abilene Idol Auditions (not choir event)
March 23	Abilene Idol event (not choir event)
April 13	Final Adult concert, Location TBD, 7:30pm
April 27	Final Youth Concert (Youth choirs only) Southwest Park Baptist Church, 7:30pm
May 17 & 18	Youth Auditions
May 25	Encore – Adult Chorus