

Prospective Member 2017.2018



2017.2018 SEASON
orlandogaychorus.org

Thank you, future member!

Thank you for your interest in the Orlando Gay Chorus! I am excited to introduce you to our dynamic organization. OGC has existed for over 27 years and in that time has been a vibrant part of the LGBT and artistic communities of Central Florida. We achieve this in several ways:

- Performance. OGC presents three main stage performances annually. Two of these take place downtown at The Plaza Live and one show travels outside of the city. In addition we produce three smaller cabaret style performances. These feature soloists from OGC along with our ensembles and guest performers. Each performance centers around a different theme and caters to different types of patrons.
- Outreaches. OGC lives its mission to “change hearts and minds” by being the public face of the gay community at different events. We sing at LGBTQ events such as Come Out with Pride and the Orlando AIDS Vigil and general community events such as Paws in the Park or Orlando City Soccer games. We sing publicly and proudly under the Orlando Gay Chorus title to show the community the strength and love of our LGBTQ peoples and allies.

As you consider joining Orlando Gay Chorus, don't forget there are three forms of membership: singer, dancer, and support. Our singers are most visible, but our “Footnotes” dance team is out front at each main stage and many outreaches. Our support section makes magic happen behind the scenes in finances, ticket sales, public relations and IT. If one sounds better than the other, just let our membership committee know what you prefer.

Thank you for considering membership in Orlando Gay Chorus. Whether you are seeking a great group to perform with or to become more involved with the LGBTQ community, you are welcome here. The experiences and memories to be made are priceless. Thank you and I look forward to meeting you in the future!



James A. Rode, Artistic Director

Auditioning: 2017-18 Season

Singer and Dancer Audition Dates:

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 from 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Saturday, August 12, 2017 from 11:00am – 2:00pm

Location:

First United Church of Christ

4605 Curry Ford Rd, Orlando, FL 32812

Preparing for the audition:

Singers

- Prepare 16 measures (or about 30 seconds of music) that you feel shows off your voice. This can be any style or genre of music; this should be something you are comfortable with and you feel represents you well. Ideally, you would provide sheet music for what you sing; we can play piano for accompaniment. We cannot provide you with sheet music or tracks.



- The audition will consist of:
 - Singing your prepared selection and vocalizing (to test your range and quality)
 - Checking your musicianship (being able to sight-read and/or read music are not requirements for membership, but we like to get a feel for your general level of music ability)
 - A short chat to get to know you!

Dancers

- Prepare about 30 seconds of choreography that you feel shows off your strongest dance style. This can be any style or genre that you feel comfortable in, and you feel represents you well.
- The audition will consist of performing your prepared choreography and a short chat to get to know you!

Please contact membership@orlandogaychorus.org to schedule an audition timeslot.

When will I know the results of my audition?

You'll be notified of the results after all of the auditions are complete. If you're accepted into Orlando Gay Chorus as either a singing or a dance-only member, you'll be welcomed at the first rehearsal (August 16, 2017)

and introduced to your Section Leader and the entire chorus membership. If you are not selected as a singing member, we still encourage you to join our support staff – they attend our rehearsals as well.

Membership Overview

Requirements for membership:

- Age: Membership in Orlando Gay Chorus is open to all persons age 18 or older. Minors age 16/17 can be accepted as members under special conditions.
- Cost: Singing and Support members pay annual Corporate Dues of \$80. Singing members pay an additional \$60 in Concert Performance Prep Fees for each concert in which they perform.
- If you are joining as a new member in August 2017, you would pay \$80+\$60 (\$140 total) to join the chorus for this season. All dues and fees are non-refundable, but we do offer payment plans.
- Wardrobe: For major performances OGC provides vests and ties to its members. You are responsible for obtaining a white long-sleeved button-down dress shirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black closed-toed dress shoes for performance. For outreach performances, our "skittles" shirt costs \$15 but OGC provides our black "billboard" shirt for free. There is only a charge to replace this shirt.
- Attendance: Singers are expected to attend 80% of the rehearsals leading up to a major performance. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm-10:00pm, held at First United Church of Christ (4605 Curry Ford Road, Orlando FL 32812).

I'm not a singer, but can I join your support staff?

Yes! These men and women work tirelessly behind the scenes to make everything happen for OGC.

There would be no OGC if there were no Support Section. Our support team:

- Handles and processes all financial transactions for the chorus
- Manages all facets of ticket sales and tracking
- Organizes and runs fundraising for Toys For Tots
- Completes all mail-out advertising to patrons
- Provides guest services at all concerts
 - Organizes and runs all front-of-house activities at concerts and performances, including ushering, ticket sales, Will Call, silent auction, and any merchandise sales

Are there limits to the number of singers?

Short answer — yes. OGC strives to maintain balance between sections in the chorus and can only take up to 150 singers on stage. Each season requires different voices, depending on what singers have retired, left the chorus, or moved away.

May alumni return to sing with the Orlando Gay Chorus?

We love to welcome family back to OGC. However, if you have not participated in either of the two most recent main stage shows, you will have to re-audition.

NEW Outreach Chorus

I want to join OGC, but I'm not available every Wednesday. Is there another way I can sing with the chorus?

Yes! This year we are trying out a new way for interested singers – with limited availability – to be a part of the organization. The goal of the Outreach Chorus is to provide additional singers at community outreach events.

This is a brand new experiment for the chorus, and there are bound to be things that change as the season progresses, but these are the guidelines with which we are starting off the season.

Participants must:

- Attend the entirety of the first two chorus rehearsals (Wednesday nights from 7pm-10pm)
- Attend rehearsal the first Wednesday of every month (September, October and November), and the Saturday rehearsal (only one absence out of these four rehearsals is allowed)
- Audition on one of the regular chorus audition dates
- Pay \$80 in corporate dues per year
- Pay \$30 in performance fees per concert (\$30 for the fall, \$30 for the spring)

Additional guidelines:

- Current OGC members may move to the Outreach Chorus at any time
- The Outreach Chorus will not be a part of the main stage concert
- Participants are expected to attend at least one outreach



Member Application

Please complete and bring with you to the audition.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Occupation _____

MUSICAL EXPERIENCE (please check):

Have you sung with a choral group in the past? YES NO

If yes, where? High School College Other GALA Chorus Community Theatre
 Other Non Professional Group Other Professional Group Professional Theatre

If yes, what voice parts have you sung? Soprano Alto Tenor Baritone Bass

Do you read music? YES NO

Do you play the piano? YES NO

If yes, how well do you play? 1 (beginner) 2 3 4 5 (professional)

For what type of membership they are applying?

Performance Chorus Outreach Chorus Footnotes Dancer Support Personnel

AVAILABILITY

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 7-10pm. Additionally, all members are REQUIRED to attend Tech Week: Friday December 8th (Tech Rehearsal), Saturday December 9th (Performance), Sunday December 10th (Performance). Outreach performances are optional, but encouraged.

Comments regarding your availability: _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____