

CALVARY CHOIR

Membership and Guidelines

- God is the focus of all that we do. Soli Deo gloria! (To God alone be glory!)
- Our music is an expression of our faith in Christ and His love for the world.
- The intent of our music, in whatever style it may take form, is to challenge listeners to be a Christ-like community.

I. Choir Membership

- A. Calvary Choir refers to the adult choir of Calvary Baptist Church of Denver. Membership is open to adult singers, post-high school age and older.
- B. Church membership is not required, but is encouraged.
- C. Leadership in worship through music and active listening and participation is the primary purpose of the choir.
- D. There are no auditions for the Calvary Choir; however, interested candidates should have a basic knowledge of music or learn quickly by ear and have the ability to match pitch. Above all else, the main qualification is a passion for music and ministry, and a commitment to the choir and overall music program.

II. Attendance

- A. Rehearsals will begin promptly at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings and will end at 8:00pm. Rehearsals are held in the Music Room. Members are responsible for marking their own attendance on the attendance sheets on the bulletin board.
- B. The choir meets before the second service on Sundays at 10:30am. Members should be robed and have their music ready for warm-up and rehearsal. If rehearsal has begun when you arrive, please get your music quickly and quietly and wait to robe until the rehearsal has ended.
 1. The choir will process to the sanctuary at 10:50am.
 2. A locked space is provided in the music room for personal items.
 3. Nothing other than your service folder and bottled water (if necessary) should be carried into the choir loft on Sundays.
- C. By participating in the Calvary Choir members are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals, Sunday services, and outside

performances. Members will communicate any foreseen scheduling conflicts or absences to the Director via email or writing as soon as possible.

1. When a member is absent, he/she is dearly missed. A single voice can have a large impact on music selection and the overall sound of the choir.
 2. In addition to informing the Director, please indicate any future absences on the attendance sheets in the Music Room.
- D. Members are encouraged to have their music, a pencil, bottled water or tea at all rehearsals.

III. Music

- A. There is a number at the top of each piece of music: this is a member's personal choir number and corresponds with his/her folder and robe numbers. Members are responsible for music assigned to them.
- B. New music will be placed in members' storage cubbies before rehearsals. If a piece is missing, please advise the Music Librarian.
- C. Members are encouraged to mark their music! Pencil only!
- D. Members should organize music within two folders. Members are responsible to keep both folders free of extraneous papers or music that is not current.
- E. Any damage or repair requests should be made known to the Music Librarian. Please organize folders as follows:
 1. Rehearsal folder:
 - a) All music currently being rehearsed
 - b) pencil
 2. Service folder:
 - a) Sunday's anthem
 - b) bulletin
 - c) music insert (if applicable)

IV. Robes

- A. Robes serve the purpose of keeping us uniform and give a singularity to our message as well as helping people focus on us as a choir as not to be distracted by individuality.
 1. Because of that purpose, members should avoid highly visible accessories or clothing that deters from a uniform appearance.
- B. Robes are assigned to members by the music librarian and numbered to correspond with your folder number.

- C. Please handle robes with care. They are stored numerically on the special racks in the music room. The open side of the robe should be facing right when hung.
- D. Members should not clean, repair, or alter their own robe. Any repair or concerns should be made in detailed writing to the music librarian.

V. Singing and Service/Performance Etiquette

- A. Calvary Choir is more than attendance on Wednesdays and Sundays. It requires a more complete commitment in order to be an effective vocalist in the choir. Proper care and attention to your voice, attitude, and walk of faith are all a part of what it means to be in a church choir.
- B. Members should sing with an expression and countenance appropriate to the music's text or direction from the Director.
- C. Members should watch the Director at all times.
- D. Members should be respectful of others and keep side conversations to a minimum; having fun making music and singing for the Lord is part of being in a choir, but rehearsals are also a time for work and focus.
- E. Members should rise and be seated together, watching the Director or choir member who assumes that responsibility. Members should be alert for the beginnings of any responses, musical or spoken.
- F. Folders should be held in the left hand (or the hand agreed upon by choir and Director) at all times.
 - 1. When entering the choir loft, folders should be held in the left hand and down at one's side.
 - 2. When in the loft, members should be aware of their visibility:
 - a) Stay alert–this means getting plenty of rest the night before;
 - b) Do not place any item on the chancel divider.
 - c) Members are encouraged to follow the service with their bulletins, but do not be a distraction to others with handling papers.

VI. Communion and Offering

- A. An offering plate will not be passed in the choir loft. If you have an offering, please have a friend or family member place your offering during the service.
- B. Calvary joins in celebrating communion on the first Sunday of the month. Trays with the bread and the cup will be passed throughout

the loft. When the tray is passed to you, please hold it and serve the member who passed the tray to you. Then pass it immediately on to the next person who will hold the tray and will serve you.

- C. When receiving communion by intinction the choir will process out of the loft discreetly and partake along with the congregation.
- D. Participating in communion is a personal choice. You may or may not participate.

VII. Choir Structure

- A. The choir will be lead and administered by the Director, accompanist, and additional leaders:
 - 1. Section Leader(s)
 - a) provide musical leadership
 - b) act as a sounding board for the section
 - c) communicate information to section
 - d) connect with Director per choir needs or concerns
 - 2. Social Coordinator(s)
 - a) helps plan and direct optional social events
 - b) helps organize logistics for choir retreats
 - 3. Music Librarian
 - a) assigns choir number, robe, folders, and music to members
 - b) catalogs and oversees music library
 - 4. Sunshine Coordinator(s)
 - a) acquires and sends cards, gifts, and/or flowers to membership
 - b) contacts members who are ill or in distress
 - c) contacts members who have been absent
- B. All positions of leadership will be appointed by the Director based upon nominations or suggestions from choir membership.
- C. This choir leadership team will provide musical, spiritual, and social growth for the choir.

VIII. Communication

- A. Communication to the choir will be handled via phone/email list to be organized by section.
- B. Members are responsible for making appropriate communications to their section or designated members as well as the director.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
Colossians 3:16