***Choir Etiquette Guidelines***

***Attendance***

Singing in a choir is a commitment to the director and to the other members of the choir. The choir counts on you being there.

If you miss three or more rehearsals per term, you might want to reconsider your commitment to the choir. The decision is up to you, in conjunction with the director.

On the other hand, if you are sick, stay home!

**Each Voice**

Your voice is just as important as the next person’s voice, and everyone has to get used to hearing everyone else. As a community choir with no audition requirement, the choir will necessarily have a wide range of skill levels and quality of voices – and that’s fine.

***Rehearsal Time***

Three simple words: ***be on time!***  Arriving late is distracting to the director and other choir members and causes you to miss the warm-up, which is arguably the most important part of rehearsal. For extenuating circumstances due to job or travel, please speak with the director.

We have 10 minutes break during rehearsal, please keep within this time limit for socializing and food break.

***Strong Scents*/ Allergies**

Please be aware that many people are sensitive or allergic to strong scents. The deep breathing that accompanies singing worsens the effects of strong perfumes and other personal products.

Also be aware of any other allergies people might have and be respectful.

***Pencils***

Always  bring  a  pencil, and only a pencil, with  you  to  rehearsal  to  mark  directions  on  your  scores.

Several tunes will be practiced in one rehearsal, and it’s impossible to remember from week to week the special direction for each tune.   Please  use  pencils,  not  pens  or  highlighters.  Tape highlighter that can be easily removed can be purchased. The  music  will  probably  be  used again and the emphasis and directions will change.

**Borrowed Music**

Occasionally, the choir borrows music from other choirs, or from organisations such as CAMMAC. When it comes time to return music, it is imperative that we return it in the same condition (and quantity) as when we received it. This means that no one is to use highlighter or pen in borrowed scores or punch holes or otherwise physically modify the scores. In addition all choristers possessing borrowed scores must make sure to return them. If we habitually return borrowed music with missing copies, damages, etc., we will either be responsible to pay for replacements, or may even no longer be able to borrow any.

***Talking During Rehearsal***

Choir  singing  is  a  sociable  pastime  and  choirs  are  full  of  sociable  people!  The camaraderie in a choir  is one of the most  important aspects.  Feel  free to make merry to your heart’s content before and after rehearsal and during breaks but not during rehearsal.

It’s  really  easy  to  start  up  little  conversations  with  your  neighbor  during rehearsal.  When  this  happens,  the  director  has  to  either  talk  over  you  or  wait until you’re quiet.

Chatter slows down rehearsal.

**Practice at home is important for a good concert performance**

Choir members are asked to practice at home. It may be practicing the music or it can only be learning the words, reading the words out loud at home.

It helps to concentrate on the music, if the words are familiar, it helps to learn the words in order to concentrate on the music.

**Happy singing  together…..**