

## Master Chorale Attendance Policies (approved by Board March 14, 2013)

The Master Chorale of the Fresno Community Chorus is unique in that we present a quality product simply out of a prideful commitment to each other and our ensemble. Time is our most precious possession, and the board and director recognize that we are a choral family comprised entirely of volunteers. At the same time, we are trying to establish ourselves as a volunteer choir with professional standards. When we sing with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra, we must guarantee a professional quality and a stable membership. Indeed, when we hire an orchestra for our own performances, we pay for the number of professional players that will balance the size of our ensemble. Therefore, membership in our ensemble demands a level of commitment commensurate with our vision of bringing high-quality performances to the greater Fresno area.

With that in mind, we ask members who are accepted into our group...

1. ...make a commitment to all performances in each half-season (fall semester or spring semester). Dates and most times will be available in the fall for the entire year. If a member needs to request out of any concert, s/he is asked to submit that request to the Section Leader at the beginning of the appropriate semester.
2. ....plan on attending all rehearsals. Generally speaking, if a member must be absent more than two regular rehearsals in either the fall or the spring, s/he must receive permission to participate in the related performance.
3. ...plan on attending all dress rehearsals. If a member must miss any dress rehearsal, s/he must receive permission to participate in the performance.
- 4 ...plan on arriving on time for warm-ups and rehearsing with the group until dismissal. Members needing an exception to this normal practice must consult with the section leader.
5. ...expect to re-audition each fall. Section leaders will audition singers returning from the latest spring concert. Any singer who did not perform in the most recent concert must re-audition with the Artistic Director. Any new singer must audition with the Artistic Director.

Of course, the board recognizes that family concerns, illness, and emergencies arise, and exceptions to stated policies will be handled at the discretion of the Artistic Director in consultation with the Section Leader. For example, a singer who misses more than the generally allowed rehearsals may be permitted to perform by demonstrating mastery of the assigned music.