



MEMBER PACKET: 2016 – 2017 SEASON

- **Message from the Staff**
- **Joining the Chorus**
- **Membership Responsibilities**
- **Season 4 Overview**
- **Application for Singing Membership**

www.steelcitymenschorus.org

PO Box 2212 Birmingham, AL 35201



Are you the next Man of Steel?

A Message from the Staff



Dear Prospective Member of Steel City Men's Chorus,

It is always exciting to us when we learn that someone is interested in joining the Steel City Men. Your interest in singing with us says much about the work we are doing and how it is valued in the community.

Ours is a community of singers of differing skill levels. Some of us are music professionals, educated and trained, and others simply have the will and determination to sing and entertain and to live out loud. Everyone is welcome. We will work hard to find a place for you that recognizes your unique skills and enables your contribution to be a beautiful part of who and what we are.

All singing members are evaluated for vocal placement by the music staff to determine their best fit. This is not something to be nervous about. We are just people – people who want to see you succeed. Membership in the chorus is about more than just singing. There are many behind-the-scenes opportunities for production and support. Most importantly, we take seriously our role of promoting a positive image within the LGBTQ community and to the wider public. A major part of that role is entertainment, but we also work to support and cooperate with other organizations such as as AIDS Alabama, Birmingham AIDS Outreach, Central Alabama Pride, and Community Kitchens. Being a Man of Steel means more than wowing an audience. It also means giving to the community. We would love to have you be a part of that.

We look forward to meeting you and to the possibility of you becoming another Man of Steel!

Warmest regards,

Stephen V. Morros
Music Director

Rob Bradley
Assoc. Music Director

David Reynolds
Chorus Manager



JOINING THE STEEL CITY MEN'S CHORUS

Membership in Steel City Men's Chorus is open to anyone, 18 and older. Singing members must be male or identify as male and be able to sing a male vocal part (TTBB). Non-singing membership is open to both men and women who do not wish to sing but desire to support SCMC through active voting membership. All members must pay dues as required by the Board of Directors to remain in good standing.

Steel City Men's Chorus is dedicated to creating community, educating, and giving voice to LGBTQ issues through music and service. In addition to our performances, we participate in a number of local community outreach programs, supporting AIDS Alabama, Birmingham AIDS Outreach, the Magic City Acceptance Center, and Community Kitchens of Birmingham. We are also proud members of GALA (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses).

If you are interested in becoming a singing member, you will need to attend at least one of the first two rehearsals. These rehearsals allow prospective members to learn more about the chorus and to experience rehearsal. These are not informational sessions but active rehearsals that allow you to fully experience membership. If you decide you'd like to join, you'll be asked to sing for Voice Placement with the Music Director and Associate Music Director at a later time. You must complete a Membership Agreement and return it to the Chorus Manager. Dues are paid to the Treasurer.



If you'd like more information about membership, please contact David Reynolds, Chorus Manager, at david.reynolds@steelcitymenschorus.org.



What is expected of a singing member:

- Rehearsal attendance on Sunday evenings, 5:30pm – 8:00pm
- Participation in occasional additional rehearsals, especially the in-town weekend retreats
- Attendance at periodic sectional rehearsals, scheduled during each show cycle
- Payment of dues (scholarships are available for those in financial need)
- Memorization of music for each show
- Correct show attire – the standard attire is tuxedo pants, regular collar tuxedo shirt (not wing tip), a silver vest, and black shoes. Additional attire is specific to each show. Attire may be ordered through the SCMC store at Uniformalwarehouse.com. The silver vest is specific to Steel City and must be ordered there.
- A willingness to work hard, accept support when needed, give support when needed, and to have fun.



What you will receive as a member of Steel City Men's Chorus:

- Membership in a community of men who love music, singing, and entertaining others in performance together
- Solo and small group opportunities
- Behind-the-scenes production opportunities such as stage craft, choreography, costuming, sound and lighting design
- A Section Leader and a Big Brother to help you as you become a part of the chorus and to assist you as you learn the music
- At least 2 professional quality productions each season
- A Member Handbook, members-only website, and Facebook group to help you find and utilize chorus information and resources
- Socials and community events
- Opportunities to give back to the community
- Adoring fans!



MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership in Steel City Men's Chorus is fun, that's for sure. Sharing our message is both important and rewarding. And in order to that effectively, each member has to be a part of the team. While the board, the staff, and volunteers do a ton of work to keep things going, you have a little to do as well!

Member Web Site – www.steelcitymenschorus.org/membersite

A Member web site is maintained for all members in good standing. You should have received a user name and password by email. If you have a problem with access, please contact the Chorus Manager.

The member site includes a calendar, information about the current show, official documents (such as the Bylaws and Member Handbook), as well as information about your attendance and account. This is the first resource you should check when you have a question.

Dues

Dues are an important part of our funding, and represent your commitment and ownership of the Chorus. Our annual budget is based on assumptions about dues payments and when you don't pay your dues, it does impact our cash flow. If you are unable to make your payment for some reason, please let the Chorus Manager or the Treasurer know. That allows us to plan accordingly and make arrangements to maintain your membership in good standing.

Information about current annual dues and payment plans are available online.

Communication

Staying in touch with you is critical. We are a busy group and we try to keep everyone in the loop.

Email

Email is our primary communication method. Every member must have an email address which is checked regularly. We do our best to respect your time and send no more than two general membership emails per week. Usually the only general email you will receive is the weekly member newsletter. Please read this! It has dates and all sorts of important info, as well as links to resources you might need and contact info for staff and leadership. In addition the weekly email you will occasionally receive an additional email with important updates or information about another event or activity. We try to keep these to a minimum.

Members are welcome to request to have something included in the weekly email if it's pertinent to members. Contact the Chorus Manager to find out if your item can be included.

Participation in various teams or groups within the Chorus will involve their own group emails in addition to the regular member email.

Texting

It goes without say that texting is important. Almost all of us text more than we email or call. And while we can't share everything with you via text, we do utilize texting to keep in touch. SCMC uses a mass texting service to allow us to easily and safely send texts to members without creating a massive group message. We only text important reminder info or critical, last minute information. While we do not require you to subscribe, it is **strongly** recommended. No one else can use the service to contact you and we use it



sparingly and only when necessary.

In order to subscribe, you send a simple message to a special number. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Some volunteers and staff may provide their numbers for you to use to text them. The Chorus's number is (205)861-3606. Texts to this number go to the Chorus Manager.

Attire

There are two types of member attire. The basic attire of a singing member is the responsibility of the individual member and consists of black tuxedo pants, a white tuxedo shirt (with regular collar, not a wing collar), a silver vest, and black socks and shoes (not patent leather). The vest must be ordered from [uniformalwarehouse.com](http://www.uniformalwarehouse.com). The shirt and pants may also be ordered there very affordably, if needed. There is a Steel City Men's Chorus "store" at Uniformalwarehouse where you will find these items.

(http://www.uniformalwarehouse.com/apages/steel_city.html)

Additional attire items are provided by and remain the property of the Chorus. Ties vary from show to show and will be handed out prior to the performance. Other items, such as hats, garlands, leis, vests, etc. will also be distributed when needed.

Music

Music is the property of Steel City Men's Chorus. Music is distributed at the beginning of each show cycle and must be returned after the show. One copy per show cycle will be provided. Additional copies will incur a fee to provide.





STEEL CITY MEN'S CHORUS

Membership Agreement

2016 - 2017 Season

Personal Information

Name	Birthday (Month/Day) May we share your birthday? <input type="checkbox"/> Y or <input type="checkbox"/> N	
Email Address	Preferred Phone	
Mailing Address		T-Shirt Size
City	State	Zip
Preferred Communication Method (mark all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Text(SMS) <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook		

Dues

Dues are \$200 per year and may be paid with one of two payment plans.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00 – Full annual payment. 10% discount if paid by third rehearsal. Due September 15.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 – paid in monthly payments of \$20. Due by the 15 th of the month, August through May.	<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Contribution (in addition to dues payment): \$
---	--	--

Scholarships are available for members in financial need. Please indicate your request for a scholarship plan due to: Financial Hardship Medical Disability Unemployment Other (explain below)

- I am requesting a 25% scholarship (dues reduced to ten installments of \$15.00)
- I am requesting a 50% scholarship (dues reduced to ten installments of \$10.00)

Member Participation and Contribution

SCMC prospers through the participation and contributions of all of our members. Please indicate below where your skills and talents might help SCMC to achieve our mission and make a difference for our community (circle any applicable).

Volunteer activity areas: <input type="checkbox"/> Skits/Drama <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative <input type="checkbox"/> Projection <input type="checkbox"/> Postering/Advertising	Areas of expertise/knowledge: <input type="checkbox"/> Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing <input type="checkbox"/> Legal <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> Management <input type="checkbox"/> Production	Committee interests: <input type="checkbox"/> Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Governance <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach
--	---	---

Acknowledgment

I am 18 years of age or older and acknowledge my obligation to pay member dues as indicated above and I hereby give permission to SCMC to use my name and photographic likeness in all forms and media for advertising, trade, and any other lawful purposes. I further acknowledge that failure to return music when requested will obligate me to pay for such music.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

