



BELLINGHAM
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

26-27 CHORUS MEMBER
HANDBOOK

Our Mission

The BSO engages, connects, and uplifts our community by performing powerful, beautiful, and inspiring music.

Our Vision

Enrich, inspire, and connect our community through the transformative power of music.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement

The Bellingham Symphony Orchestra is committed to bringing people together through the transformative power of music. Our musicians, board members, and staff encourage you to join us in vigorously opposing discrimination, racism, and hate, as we strive to promote diversity and equity in our organization and in our community, and to enrich the repertoire with cultural diversity.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SYMPHONY OFFICE

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MUSIC DIRECTOR Yaniv Attar - yaniv.attar@bellingshamsymphony.org

CHORUS DIRECTOR Dr. Mabalot - mabalot@bellingshamsymphony.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Gail Ridenour - executive@bellingshamsymphony.org

PERSONNEL MANAGER Odessa Rhodes - operations@bellingshamsymphony.org

CHORUS MANAGER Chris Attebery - chorus@bellingshamsymphony.org

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR & BOOKEEPER Isabelle Kepner
- administration@bellingshamsymphony.org

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Stacey Sledge -
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BSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Carol Comeau - carolscomeauak@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT Kathy Bell - kreillybell@comcast.net

SECRETARY Mark Tomko - mark.tomko.1@gmail.com

TREASURER Gena Mikkelsen - campbeg5@hotmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT Corey Welch - president@bellingshamsymphony.org

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

CHORUS MEMBER HANDBOOK

DEFINITION of a BSO CHORUS MEMBER

Singers who have been accepted into the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra Chorus as regular members and agree to regular attendance of the rehearsals and concerts.

Since the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus strives to be a high-quality, self-sustaining orchestra and chorus able to attract appreciative audiences and accomplished musicians, these are

THE EXPECTATIONS OF CHORUS MEMBERS

Sing the music well

Chorus members are expected to perform at the level shown in the audition and to continue to improve by practicing the music which will be provided in a timely manner.

Attend BSO rehearsals

The BSO rehearses Sunday evenings from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Church of the Assumption unless otherwise noted.

Report any absences

Members must report any necessary absences to the Chorus Manager and the Chorus Director before the rehearsal.

Make every effort to arrive on time for rehearsals

Members should arrive in time to warm up.

Display proper rehearsal etiquette

Members should come to rehearsal prepared, reduce unnecessary talking, and limit break time to the agreed upon length.

Attend full dress rehearsals

If a member cannot make a dress rehearsal or a concert, notification must be given to the section leader, the Chorus Manager, and the Chorus Director. A member who misses a dress rehearsal may be asked not to perform in the concert at the Chorus Director's discretion.

Return music promptly

Scores should be returned to the "Chorus Return Box" directly after each concert. If a singer is missing a concert, scores must be turned in to the Chorus Manager before the performance date. Late fees and replacement of lost rental parts are costly expenses to the BSO. Singers should contact the Chorus Manager with any issue regarding scores.

Observe the agreed upon dress code

Please note there are All Black Clothing Options. The BSO uses the All Black Clothing Option for most of the concerts during any given season.

ALL BLACK CLOTHING OPTIONS:

- **OPTION 1:** Long, black slacks with a sleeved black formal shirt; crew- or trouser-length black socks; black dress shoes; (black jacket and black tie preferred).
- **OPTION 2:** Long, black slacks/skirt with a sleeved black blouse; black dress shoes.

- **OPTION 3:** Long, black, sleeved dress; black dress shoes.

Wear whichever option you feel is most appropriate, and while this dress code mirrors professional practice in our field, we do not intend it to be gender specific or restrictive.

Notes:

- This is the standard dress code for BSO concerts unless otherwise noted at the beginning of the season.
- Skirts & dresses should fall mid-calf or mid-ankle; slacks should break at the shoe.
- Slacks must be formal trousers, floor-length, loose-fitting or tailored, but not body hugging.
- Socks or stockings worn must be black.
- Sleeves on shirts and dresses must be 3/4 or full length.
- Not acceptable: short sleeves or sleeveless shirts/dresses, leggings as bottoms, exposed midriffs/back, plunging necklines, sheer clothing, sleeveless tops, flashy earrings, jewelry, scarves, hats, and scents (perfume, after-shave, cologne).

Represent the BSO in our community

Members are encouraged to promote concerts, attend events, help fundraise, volunteer their abilities when possible, promote engagement activities and youth education.

Exhibit team spirit and cooperation

Feedback and concerns should best be addressed to the Chorus Manager or Chorus Representative (to the BSO Board of Directors & Players Committee) in the appropriate manner.

Use complimentary tickets judiciously

All members of the BSO Chorus will be awarded two complimentary tickets for each concert in which they perform. These tickets can be redeemed by contacting the Mount Baker Theatre Box Office by phone or email. Box office hours are 10am-2pm Mon-Fri. Since the MBT charges the symphony a significant fee for each ticket issued, members should redeem only tickets they plan to use ahead of time. In addition, unused tickets can be sold by the MBT to profit the BSO.

Commit to this Handbook and the BSO Bylaws and Policies & Procedures

At the beginning of each season, members will be given a contract by the Chorus Manager and asked to sign intent to follow the expectations. Any feedback and concerns may be addressed through the Players Committee representatives. Players Committee contact information for Players Committee officers can be found on the BSO Player Page and in the BSO Office. To access the Player Page, visit bellingshamsymphony.org, click on "Player Login," and enter the password: **Symphony51**.

The BSO Chorus Member Handbook, Policies & Procedures, and Bylaws can be found on the Player Page. Physical copies can be made available to players on request. For copies of these documents, please contact the BSO Operations Manager.

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS FOR SECTION LEADERS

Lead and organize the members in their sections

Section leaders should articulations, pronunciation, and phrasing guidance, working on individual parts in order to ensure a quality performance and musical style.

- **Communicate notes from rehearsals with sections.** Section leaders send relevant rehearsal notes to the Chorus Manager for distribution to sections following rehearsals.
- **Warn Chorus Director and Chorus Manager when section leader must be absent.** After clearing it with the Chorus Director, section leaders are expected to warn the Chorus Manager if they expect to be absent from any rehearsal or performance. Conflicts about the dress rehearsals must be discussed immediately.
- **Encourage excellence and communicate issues.** Leaders should maintain a good, collaborative working relationship with the section singers, other section leaders, the Chorus Manager, and the Chorus Director.
- **Sign the Section Leader Contract.** At the beginning of each season, the Chorus Manager will ask that each section leader agree to the terms expected in this handbook. The compensation approved annually by the Board of Directors will be paid by check after each concert.
- **Announcements to section leaders and choristers will be made by email. Other important information and schedules will be available on the Player Webpage at <https://www.bellinghamsymphony.org/players/season-info>.** Considerable effort has been made by many stakeholders to create policies that will ensure the success of this handbook. It is a “work in progress” which will be changed when necessary and those changes clearly communicated to all choristers.