

MNjcc Community Choir 2026-27

Frequently Asked Questions

The MNjcc Community Choir, directed by Harriet Wichin, is a group of passionate, diverse singers who come together as a strong community and find fulfilment through their shared joy of creating music.

Q: Do I have to be a member of the MNjcc to participate in choir?

A: You do not need to be a member in order to participate in the choir or any other Arts, Culture and Jewish Community programs.

Q: I am new to the choir. Do you require an audition?

A: We ask that all new singers undergo a vocal assessment by our conductor before registering. Please email Harriet at harrietchoir@gmail.com to arrange.

Q: Do former choir members need to audition? What if I've taken a year off?

A: Former choir members generally do not need to re-audition, but should connect with Harriet if they are interested in returning. If you have been off for several years then Harriet will likely want to do a vocal assessment with you to make sure you're in the right section or part of the section.

Q: Do I need to be able to read sheet music?

A: Familiarity with music notation is an asset, but not necessary if you possess strategies for learning and practicing at home.

Q: What songs will we be singing?

A: The MNjcc Community Choir sings a wide variety of repertoire. Recent concert programs have included different genres such as classical, folk, pop, contemporary choral works, jazz, world, Jewish music and musical theatre. One or two pieces may be in Hebrew, Yiddish or Ladino. The choir will also explore great Jewish composers like Sondheim, Leonard Cohen, Stephen Schwartz.

Q: Is this a full year choir or by term?

A: The Community Choir has two terms. Term 1 will run from Sept-Dec and Term 2 will run from Jan-May. You can choose to sign up for a single term or both. Music learned in the first term will carry over to the second term and appear on the final concert. There will be opportunities for review.

Q: When / Where do rehearsals take place?

A: Rehearsals take place at the Miles Nadal JCC at 750 Spadina Ave. and are on Monday nights, 7-9pm. There are occasional 'sectional' rehearsals for individual voice sections (eg Alto). These are usually held either at 6 or 6:30 pm on choir rehearsal night.

Q: What format are the rehearsals?

A: The choir will focus on developing confidence in singing, vocal technique, exploring the music of different genres, and community building. Emphasis will be placed on creating a supportive choir community through exciting learning opportunities. The Miles Nadal JCC is an accessible, inclusive and positive space.

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Q: I may miss a few rehearsals. Should I still register?

A: Everyone is bound to miss a rehearsal here or there due to illness or other commitments. However, if you are travelling and will be away for more than three rehearsals, please discuss with Harriet. Watching rehearsal recordings and keeping up with your music can often work in these instances. Best to discuss on an individual basis.

Q: If I miss a rehearsal how do I catch up?

A: We record each rehearsal and send a link to all choir members for viewing.

Q: Are the Jewish holidays taken into account when scheduling rehearsals?

Yes. We do not schedule rehearsals on Jewish holidays where work is prohibited, or statutory holidays.

Q: What are the expectations regarding practising outside of rehearsal?

A: Each singer should commit to spending at least an hour a week their music. The conductor sends a newsletter out every week which explains what the singers accomplished that week, and what is expected when people return the following week. We have excellent learning tools, which include almost every song tracks by part. You can sing along with your part, you can sing along with another person's part. All the sheet and learnings will be available on our website.

Q: Is there the opportunity to perform?

A: Yes! The choir will hold an open rehearsal on December 7, a cabaret for family and friends in March, and an end of year concert on May 10.

Q: I would love to join the choir, but I am unable to afford the fee. Do you offer subsidies?

A: The MNjcc Music Scholarship Fund is available for those requiring financial assistance. Please reach out to davidkb@mnjcc.org

Q: Can I get involved? Do choir members volunteer outside of rehearsals?

A: Yes! Volunteers help with social activities, music library, repertoire selection, and concert planning.



milesnadaljcc



750 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S2J2



416.924.6211



www.mnjcc.org

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