

POLYMNIA CHORAL SOCIETY

Singer's Handbook



Rehearsals take place on
Tuesday evenings, 7:00 –9:00 pm

at the

Melrose Highlands Congregational Church
355 Franklin Street, Melrose

POLYMNIA CHORAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 760718, Melrose, MA 02176

www.polymnia.org

visit us on Facebook

About Polymnia Choral Society

Polymnia means “many songs,” after the Greek muse of poetry and music. Founded in Wakefield in 1953 and based in Melrose since 1956, the Polymnia Choral Society serves the cultural and educational interests of communities north of Boston with concerts that range from sacred hymns and classical music to popular show tunes—from J.S. Bach to P.D.Q. Bach.

The chorus is comprised of over 60 voices, with singers coming from all over the North Shore area. We sing three subscription concerts a year, in December, March and June. We also do an annual “Cabaret” fundraiser each year.

Polymnia Choral Society is a 501C not-for-profit organization that is supported in part by grants from **the Melrose Cultural Council, Mass Cultural Council**, the Melrose **Coop Foundation** and **the Bayrd Foundation**.

Mission:

- To promote the knowledge and enjoyment of a broad range of choral music and to provide a wider access to that music
- To give interested singers an opportunity to sing sacred and secular choral music of high quality
- To present concerts for the enjoyment of the public
- To develop among the singers and the broader public of our communities an appreciation of fine music and high standards of choral work



The Polymnia Choral Society is a member of the Greater Boston Choral Consortium, a cooperative association of diverse choral groups in Boston and the surrounding areas.

CONDUCTORS

1953–1956	Stephen Ortlip	1985–1987	Roy Hagen
1956–1964	Keith Phinney	1987–1988	Richard Reynolds
1964–1967	Jeronimas Kacinskas		Richard DeMone
1967–1972	Keith Phinney	1988–1990	D. Donald Cervone
1972–1980	David Sonnenschein	1999	James D. Leach
1980–1982	Stephen Karidoyanes	1990–2002	James E. Reyes
1982	Starr Demitre	2002–2007	Michelle Graveline
1983–1984	Elizabeth Hood	2007–	Murray Kidd
1984–1985	Betsy Burleigh		

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors oversees the finances, rehearsal and concert logistics, fundraising efforts and publicity of the organization. Board members also keep the Polymnia membership informed about all concert and non-concert activities via weekly announcements, letters and emails, and by maintaining the Polymnia website.

The Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers from the chorus and supporters who offer their energy, talents and diverse professional skills to Polymnia. The Polymnia Board of Directors meets about once a month. New officers and board members are elected at the Annual Membership Meeting. To see a current list of Board Members, visit www.polymnia.org.

How to Join

New members are welcome and may attend open rehearsals during the first three weeks of each concert rehearsal period. The conductor will hear new members briefly and privately to make sure they are placed in the right section. **This is not an** audition.

Fees

Membership dues are \$60 per concert and should be paid at least two weeks before the concert date. Make checks payable to Polymnia Choral Society and give them to the treasurer. In addition to dues, all members pay a music fee. The music fee is determined for each performance and covers the cost of the scores. It is usually less than \$45 per concert.

Students are exempted from membership dues and need only pay for music.

Schedule

We have three concerts per year:

- Holiday (usually early December)
- Spring (end of March or early April)
- Pops (usually early June)

Concerts may be on a Saturday night or Sunday afternoon, depending on the availability of the venue.

A schedule of rehearsals for the year will be distributed at the beginning of the concert season. Rehearsals begin on the first Tuesday after Labor Day and continue on Tuesday evenings up to the concert. Dress rehearsals are usually the Tuesday and Friday before each concert. Rehearsals run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. At 8:00 PM, we take a very short break for announcements and a brief social time. If you wish to bring a drink or snack, please do so. The choir does not meet over the summer.

In addition, we have a ***Cabaret*** fundraiser. At this event singers from the choir have an opportunity to perform for an audience either solo or with other choir members. Cabaret auditions will be announced at a rehearsal and through our member email list several months before the Cabaret.

Member Responsibilities

- Attend as many rehearsals as possible and arrive on time
- Prepare for each rehearsal by reviewing words and music
- Review the practice recordings as needed on the Polymnia website at www.polymnia.org. Note that you must be logged in to the website to access the recordings.
- Avoid wearing perfume, cologne, or other strong odors for rehearsals and especially at concerts

- Organize your music into a choral folder or similar binder as requested by the conductor
- Assist the group in setting up chairs before rehearsal and putting them away at the end of rehearsal
- Attend the Annual Membership meeting when scheduled at the second rehearsal following the spring concert. The meeting takes place during the second half of a regular Tuesday evening rehearsal
- Support Polymnia by helping out in both concert-related and non-concert-related activities (see Member Participation, below)

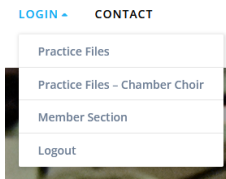
Member Participation

As a volunteer-run organization, Polymnia depends on its members to participate in a variety of activities that support the group. Members can:

- Create interest and awareness about Polymnia in the community by volunteering at our booth at the Melrose Victorian Fair and caroling at the Wakefield Savings Bank, and by spreading the word about our concerts and fundraisers via posters, Facebook, email and word-of-mouth
- Help with concert set-up and break-down when needed.
- Raise money for the group by selling tickets to friends and family, selling ads to local businesses, donating raffle tickets and prizes, and helping at fundraisers
- Join the Polymnia Board of Directors
- Participate with the Friends of Polymnia if you are not singing in a scheduled concert.

Website

Please check our website regularly (www.polymnia.org) for updates on concerts and special events, season schedules, photos and recordings from past concerts. Be sure to visit the member area for practice recordings for every concert, a list of Polymnia members, and advertising information. Log onto the member area with username “singer” and password “melrose”. Or you may set up a UserID of your own by going to our registration page, www.polymnia.org/register. Once



you are logged in, hover your cursor over the “Login” link to see a list of member locations containing the practice files and a Member Section where you can find a list of members, our bylaws, and a link to pay your dues online if you wish.

Concert Logistics

Concert Dress: Concert dress is determined for each performance in consultation with the Artistic Director. Ladies often wear a long black skirt or slacks with either a black or pure white blouse or jacket. Sleeves are $\frac{3}{4}$ or full length. Black shoes. Jewelry should be subtle. No perfume. Gentlemen often wear a tuxedo or black suit, white shirt, black shoes and black bow tie.

Set up: Several choir members may be needed to help set up and break down the venue, which may include risers, chairs, stands, etc.

Call time: The conductor will specify the call time, which is generally an hour and a half prior to the concert start time, to allow for warm-ups and logistics.

Music Details: To ensure that page turning is done QUIETLY and does not disturb the audience, please cut the corners of your music and trim down the inside edges.

Tax Donations

Choir members who need a letter verifying any donations to Polymnia Choral Society should request one by e-mail from the Board Treasurer. Send a request to treasurer@polymnia.org.

Spotlight on High School Talent



Since 2009, Polymnia has invited high school students in the Greater Boston area to audition for a featured solo in our concerts and to receive a \$250 award. The contest audition takes place in February or March or at the conductor's discretion and is open to singers, dancers, actors, instrumentalists, and composers. There is a \$15 audition fee. More information may be found on our website www.polymnia.org/spotlight.

Friends of Polymnia

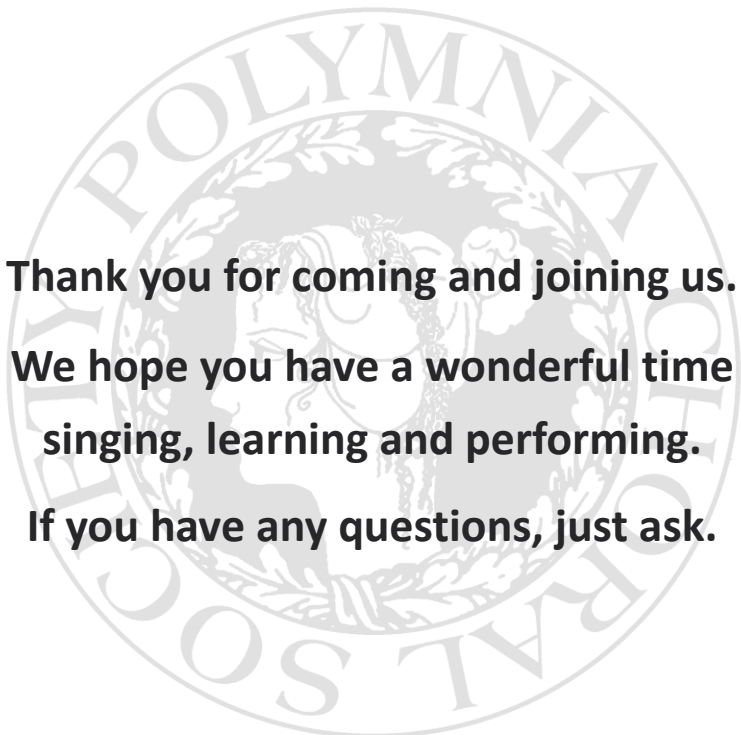
"The Friends" are a separate support organization with a mission to provide volunteer support and foster community outreach on behalf of the Polymnia Choral Society. In order to fulfill its mission, the Friends of Polymnia provides volunteer support personnel to fulfill duties as requested by the Polymnia board and approved by the Friends of Polymnia management. These duties may include support for:

- Polymnia concerts including ticket takers, ushers, administration, logistics support, and set up/clean-up of receptions staged after concerts
- Polymnia management administration services which may include website management, back-office administration, and

other such duties requested by the Polymnia board of directors and approved by the Friends management committee.

The Friends of Polymnia is led by a Managing Director who sits on the Polymnia board and also manages the work assignments making sure the volunteers who are part of the Friends of Polymnia have a great time.

We encourage you to consider asking your friends and family about their willingness to volunteer for our Friends organization. Friends members can earn complimentary tickets to performances that they can share with their friends and other family members. For more information, please contact friends@polymnia.org

The seal of the Polymnia Choral Society is a circular emblem. It features a central profile of a woman's head, likely representing the Muse Polymnia, facing left. She is adorned with a crown of laurel leaves and a necklace. The text "POLYMNIA" is arched across the top, and "CHORAL SOCIETY" is arched across the bottom. The entire seal is rendered in a light gray, semi-transparent style.

**Thank you for coming and joining us.
We hope you have a wonderful time
singing, learning and performing.
If you have any questions, just ask.**