



Welcome to Da Camera Singers for the 2023-24 season!

Mission

Building empathy and belonging to enrich our community with the power of music.

Vision

Inspiring and engaging through voices in harmony.

Values

Integrity, Innovation, Curiosity, Passion, Respect

Many behind the scenes actions have been at play for the summer and things are looking great for our season. In this letter you will find important information about Da Camera Singers, and where to find more detailed information about who we are and how we operate. Whether you are a new or returning member, please be sure to read through the information provided and make note of important dates. We also ask you to consider how you can contribute to volunteer roles in our organization.

Registration and Choir Fees:

If you have not already done so, please register. Here is the link to do so:

<https://forms.gle/2A2235GomJ4QR2pu5>

Please pay choir fees as soon as possible. Feel free to contact Cathy at treasurer@dacamerasingers.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

Attendance and Preparation:

Regular attendance **at all rehearsals and retreats** is expected and **attendance at dress rehearsals is mandatory**. If you have extenuating circumstances which make it impossible for you to attend, please notify our rehearsal manager Guylaine at 780-977-6286 (text) or dahlilah1963@gmail.com and Laura at laurahawley@hotmail.com. If you miss a rehearsal be sure to catch up on what you missed **before the next rehearsal**. If you are absent due to illness, please attend rehearsal via zoom if you're well enough to do so. You can connect here:: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85145858773> ; Meeting ID: 851 4585 8773. Maria Rosvik is our "Queen of Zoom" and will be managing/moderating this weekly.

If you are unable to sing in a concert, it's essential that you let Laura know as soon as possible.

Retreats serve various purposes (**next one is September 30!**): they are both rehearsals, and community strengthening events. Typically, we have specialists attend our retreats which adds significant learning.

Laura prepares a rehearsal schedule which outlines what she will be working on each rehearsal. Please take the time to practice and prepare this music at home, on your own time - this is necessary so we do not have to take too much time in rehearsal for note and text learning.

Concerts:

- Saturday, November 11, 7:30pm: REMEMBER
- Saturday December 2, 3:00pm: THE RELUCTANT DRAGON
- Sunday March 3, 3:00pm: THE PIANIST
- Sunday May 5, 3:00pm: UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Important Dates:

Please familiarize yourself with the following important dates. A google calendar link will be available soon.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15kBYSkfw22xytXfGhSNQ4phodg-C7GcKscgg5ttEtE/edit#heading=h.5u0bjh7aiwtk>

Ways information is shared in DCS:

- At rehearsals
- Website Singer Area: <https://www.dacamerasingers.ca>
- Via our Facebook page - Laura will invite you to the page
- Email - please ensure we have the correct email for you. If you have not already received information from us via email, please send a note to Brendan, our administrator at info@dacamerasingers.ca

Who's Who? There are many folks who make Da Camera Singers work, musically and organizationally. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to talk with any of us. Generally, artistic matters are best directed to Laura Hawley and the organizational matters to any of the board members.

Special Roles
Artistic Director - Laura Hawley
Accompanist – Kim Cousineau
Business Manager – Brendan Lord

Board Members
President - Elizabeth Stolte
Past President - Frank Thede
Vice President - Timothy Wong
Treasurer - Cathy Grant
Secretary - Cheryl Kreuger
Members at Large - Maria Rosvick, Shannon Kolotyuk, Andrew Richardson

What follows are more details regarding member expectations and workings of the choir. Please take the time to read and know this information.

Member Responsibilities: The board has developed a statement of Membership Responsibilities. It acknowledges that we are a semi-professional choir and in order to be the best we can be, clear expectations and accountability need to be articulated and followed. The Member Responsibility document along with the Da Camera Singers bylaws can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rzlJiEjd2rqDBXGmmgo5gl3Odu5riA9e/view?usp=drive_link

Da Camera online calendar: For those who use an online calendar, or an outlook/iCal calendar with your mobile device or desktops, we have created a Da Camera specific calendar which includes all our performance/rehearsal and retreat dates, times, and locations. Changes to our calendar, including venue or call times, should they be necessary, will appear immediately and sync with devices that you have subscribed to this calendar. You can find this calendar here:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/dacamerasingers.ca%40gmail.com/private-4b2ca673e4ca993e5419fbdf164c0c63/basic.ics>

Rehearsals: Da Camera Singers rehearses on Monday nights from 7:00 – 9:30 PM at Holy Trinity Anglican Church (10037 84 Ave). We start our rehearsals promptly, so we ask everyone to be seated in advance of our designated start time. If you can come earlier, we'd appreciate your help in getting the space set up for rehearsal.

Please ensure that you bring all your music and a pencil (which you will use regularly) to each rehearsal. Laura provides a rehearsal schedule – it is important to follow it so you can be prepared for the rehearsal. Laura also provides rehearsal information and concert preparation resources online. General information like the welcome letter, schedule, rehearsal plans, resources etc. is posted on the Singer Area on the [Da Camera website](#). Choir members are expected to spend time with their scores and these resources between rehearsals studying their parts and text for the pieces to be covered at the upcoming rehearsal.

Please note that for security reasons the entrance door at HTAC will be locked about 15 minutes into our rehearsal. If you expect to arrive later than this, please let the rehearsal manager know before 7:00 PM.

Retreats: Our next retreat is **September 30, 2023**. This is the schedule for the day:

9:30	Opening: recognition of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
9:30-12	Workshop with Kate Ryan: Activating the Song
12-1:00	LUNCH
1:00-1:45	Rehearsal all
2:00-3:30	Sectionals - Tenors/Basses coaching with Ian Bannerman
3:30-4	Glow up break
4:00-5:00	Choir Photo!
5-6:30	DINNER (provided) and social activity
6:30-8:00	Rehearsal

Membership:

Membership fee: the 2023-24 season membership fee is \$300 and \$150 for students. Please give the cheques/money to **Cathy Grant**, our choir treasurer, or send the funds by Interac to treasurer@dacamerasingers.ca. **Please be sure to provide your first and last name in the 'comments' section of the e-transfer.** If you need to make arrangements to pay the fee in installments or if this level of fees poses a significant personal financial challenge, please discuss it directly with Cathy treasurer@dacamerasingers.ca .

Concert Dress:

Sopranos & Altos: 'Sympli' long black skirt or trousers, black top, black shoes. The cost of renting the outfit is \$100 and is nonrefundable. If/when you leave the choir, the outfit must be returned. Please contact Da Camera's wardrobe coordinator, **Wendy Legaarden**, as soon as possible if you are new to the choir to make arrangements to obtain an outfit.

Tenors & Basses: Black suit, white shirt, tie of one single color with no pattern, black socks and black shoes.

Music & Choir Folders - Our music librarian **Susan Doyle** will assign you a choir folder and number and will provide you with music scores as we prepare for each of the concerts. Electronic version of the scores are (will be) available on the google drive at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12m7qUDm2Nos2FDz-_R6jbxgdgx3IQ34RT?usp=drive_link

Our Librarian will collect the music **at the end of each concert**; please make sure to return the music promptly (applies to those using paper and electronic versions) – it makes her life (and yours) much easier!

Choir Funding - Our funding comes largely from our casino revenue and operating grants from various granting agencies supporting the arts. As casino revenues are not entirely predictable, we are working towards building a base of donors and sponsors to support our operation.

Da Camera Singers is a charitable organization, and we provide tax receipts as well as program recognition for all our sponsors. If you would be interested in becoming a friend of the choir or if you know of people/organizations we should approach to help support our work, please pass on that information to any member of the board.

Additional Opportunities to serve the Choir: Da Camera Singers is blessed with some very capable resource people (Artistic Director, Business Manager and Accompanist) however, **we are still a volunteer organization and depend on all our members for help with many of the tasks required to make the organization work.** Particularly important are:

Concert Promotion and Ticket Sales: We will provide posters for each concert. We depend heavily on our choir members to promote the concerts and encourage people to go online and book tickets. We encourage you to be ambassadors for the choir!

Casino volunteers: A significant portion of our operating costs are covered by the funds raised through the casino nights assigned to Da Camera Singers. We work a casino about every 18-24 months and it generates about 75% of the funds required to operate as a choir.

If you made it to this point in the letter - well done! And Thank you! Please do not hesitate to contact me at the contact info below for any reason at all. I am looking forward to this season and collaborating with all of you.

Cheers!

Elizabeth Stolte, Board Chair
cestolte@shaw.ca
780-914-7540