



Chorus Attendance Policy

Mt. Pleasant Chapter

The performance team affirms that a member's attendance has a significant and positive influence on both the member's and the ensemble's achievement. Each member develops his ability to sing and perform at different rates. If the *individual's* ability to execute the vocal and performance skills to an expected level was all that is needed, then having a member demonstrate his mastery over those skills would be sufficient to qualify that member to sing with the performing chorus.

However, each member of MTS is part of an ensemble. As such, he must perform in a manner that does not detract from the MTS Chorus' performance as a whole, either visually or vocally and in a manner that does not interfere with the performances of his peers.

For that reason, MTS has adopted a two part qualification plan to become a performing member of the chorus. One part addresses individual vocal and performance skills while the other part deals with the impact of those individual skills on the ensemble.

The director and designated members of the Performance Team will determine whether a chorus member is ready to sing with the performing chorus by having him demonstrate his proficiency with the current chorus repertoire. The chapter member must demonstrate that he:

- Knows the notes, words and choreography for all of the repertoire that will be performed
- Is skilled in singing with MTS vocal techniques
- Is skilled in singing with MTS ensemble techniques
- Performs in a manner that does not detract from the MTS Chorus' performance as a whole, either visually or vocally
- Performs in a manner that does not interfere with the performances of his peers

If every member of an ensemble could individually sing and perform at a 75 percentile level, which is a B+ level, then said ensemble would perform at a minimum of a B+ level. But we know that all members of an ensemble don't perform at the same level. Some may perform at a lower level than others, yet the ensemble would still be able to achieve a score of 75. This is because of the synergies gained by the ensemble singing together over a period of time. We also know through experience that not having the entire chorus available for rehearsals has limited our potential as an ensemble. This has necessitated the institution of attendance criteria as another element that affects individual vocal and performance skills as well as ensemble skills.

All singers appearing on stage for any performance by MTS do so at the complete discretion of the Musical Director and Performance Team. Prior to any contest or show, at the discretion of the Musical Director and Performance Team, a singer may be asked to demonstrate mastery of the material by various methods (use of a recorder, singing in a quartet or VLQ, solo performance). It will not be unusual if singers are asked to demonstrate such mastery using different methods.

All singers are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances of the MountainTown Singers. While it is recognized that 100% attendance is not possible for everyone, a singer whose attendance falls substantially below the minimum requirements established by the Performance Team during any 3-month period is subject to review by the Performance Team. Members unable to actively attend rehearsals may be dropped from the performing chorus until such time as they are able to resume active rehearsal participation. *The minimum attendance requirement is participation in 75% of rehearsals, both regular and special, in the three month period leading up to a contest/show. Exceptions can be made on an individual basis for good cause, at the discretion of the Musical Director / Performance Team.*

Adopted March 2, 2011