

Blue Ridge Chorale

Newsletter

Save the Dates!!!

- 3/16/2019 *Shamrock Shuffle*
5k fun Run/Walk
Verdun Adventure Bound
9:30 AM
- 3/25/2019 *Potluck Social*
Open Door Rehearsal Room
5:30 PM
- 4/13/2019 *MANDATORY*
Saturday Rehearsal
Culpeper Baptist Church
10 AM – 2 PM

Welcome!!!!!!!

Welcome to another fabulous season with the Blue Ridge Chorale. This year marks our 51st season.... wow! We are thrilled to be continuing under the superb directorship of Mr. C. Alexander Smith, and the musical accompaniment of Mrs. Brittany Bache. Added to the music team this season is our assistant director, Mrs. Melanie Bolas. We have the BEST music team around! To our returning singers, we are happy to see you! To our new singers, we extend the warmest of welcomes to you! We hope you enjoy being in the chorus as much as we do.

In this newsletter you will find some words of wisdom from our director, important upcoming dates, rehearsal etiquette, and information from your Board of Directors about the Board. Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see in the next newsletter edition, or any suggestions you might have to improve it, or if you have any pictures to share. Of course, praise is always welcome, too. 😊



Rehearsal Etiquette

We're all here to learn songs and sing them to the best of our ability in a fun, creative, and friendly atmosphere. This implies a certain amount of gentle discipline and politeness. Please read the following reminders about rehearsal etiquette. Failure to adhere to the following may be cause for asking you to leave our chorus.

1. Rehearsal Time

Three simple words: be on time! Arriving late is distracting to the director and other chorus members and causes you to miss the warm-up, which is arguably the most important part of rehearsal.

2. Strong Scents

Please be aware that many people are sensitive or allergic to strong scents. The deep breathing that accompanies singing worsens the effects of strong perfumes and other personal products.

3. Pencils/Water Bottles

Always bring a pencil with you to rehearsal to mark directions on your music. Several songs will be practiced in one rehearsal, and it is impossible to remember from week to week the special direction for each one.

Please use pencils, not pens or highlighters. The music will probably be used again and the emphasis and directions will change.

Always bring a water bottle. We need to keep our "instruments" lubricated.

4. Attendance

Singing in a chorus is a commitment to the director and to the other members of the chorus. Your voice is just as important as the next person's voice, and everyone has to get used to hearing everyone else. That's how good choirs are made. If you miss three or more rehearsals per season, you might want to reconsider your commitment to the choir. The decision is up to you. On the other hand, if you are sick and contagious, stay home!



5. Talking During Rehearsal

Choir singing is a sociable pastime and our choir is full of sociable people! The camaraderie in a choir is one of the most important aspects. Feel free to talk it up to your heart's content before and after rehearsal and during breaks.

During rehearsal though, please refrain from talking. It is really easy to start up little conversations with your neighbor during rehearsal. When this happens, our director has to either talk over you or wait until you're quiet, and it's distracting to those around you.

Chatter slows down rehearsal and prevents us from making the most of our time to learn our music. And, it's just downright rude. Don't talk during rehearsals.

6. Conducting

Don't conduct. Really. You may think you know more than the director. You may think you can do a better job. And that could even be true. But it's rude. Don't do it. Our director has carefully selected our music and knows the direction he wants to take us in with each piece. Trust him, and let him do his job. He knows what he's doing. Really.

7. Attitude

Please come to rehearsal focused and ready to practice. You will get out of rehearsal what you put into it. Be positive, give 100%, and pay attention. Most of all, bring your **ENERGY, ENERGY, ENERGY!!!!**

8. Cancellations

Check your e-mail, Facebook, and the Members Page of our website for schedule changes and cancellations one hour prior to rehearsal.



The Director's Corner

Mr. C. Alexander Smith

Hello Blue Ridge Chorale,

I gladly welcome you to the 2019 spring season of the The Blue Ridge Chorale. You are now a very important member of the finest chorus in this area. I sincerely believe that your involvement in the Chorale will be rewarding and satisfying. Throughout this season you will sharpen your music skills (singing) and deepen your love of music.

As the director, my expectations are extremely high and I only expect the best from the group. Everybody gives 100% all of the time. There are a few things that I expect. I expect you to bring your music, a pencil, and water to every rehearsal. I strongly encourage you to make notes and mark your music whenever I ask you to. You never know when I will take a look at your music to make sure you are marking your music. It will help you to stay in tune with what's going on and it will allow us to make the music instead of just singing the notes. Also, if you take good notes, I don't have to repeat myself over and over again about the same note/phrase.

Next, whenever I am working on notes with another section other than yours, please do not talk. It's very distracting and extremely unprofessional. If there is a specific question you have about your music or notes, you should ask me. Also, please be mindful that you are allowed to miss three rehearsals. If you are planning to miss a rehearsal or if you just can't make it to a rehearsal, please let me know. By now, I know what all of you look like and in the next couple of weeks, I will know all of your names. So please let your section leader know if you are planning to miss.

We have the best music team and Melanie and Brittany have kept me in the know with the rehearsal progress and how great we sound so far this season. Granted, we still have a lot of work to do, but so far so good. We are all focused and working really hard, so let's keep up with the great singing!!! Remember to work on your music outside of rehearsals. I know we will have a great concert, if we continue to put in the work that is necessary to produce a great concert. Remember we are focusing on our musicality this season. This includes singing with superb diction, lots of expression, singing through the phrases, and above all singing with lots and lots and lots of **ENERGY!!!** So, let's continue moving forward and making some great music. Honestly, it's all about having loads of fun, making long-lasting friendships, producing great music, taking great notes, not talking during the rehearsals, watching the director, and enjoying yourselves. We are well on our way to making this season with the Blue Ridge Chorale a great event not only for us, but for the community as well. Trust me, all of your hard work and being dedicated to the chorus will pay off.

Sing-cerely,
Alexander Smith

Alex's email: idirect30@gmail.com

News from the Board of Directors

Questions????

Email the Board at

President@brcsings.com

or

Message us on Facebook

*'Music to me is like breathing -
I don't get tired of breathing, I
don't get tired of music.'
Ray Charles*

Did you know?????

*Practice tracks and other information are available on the member's page on our website. Be sure to check it out!

*You can support the chorus by selecting The Blue Ridge Chorale on AmazonSmile. Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to the chorus.

2019 Blue Ridge Chorale

Board of Directors

President:	Patti Christie
Vice-President:	Jodi Stone
Secretary:	Geniene Zinn
Treasurer:	Wanda Osborn
Concert Master:	Kathy Flanagan
Communication/ Social Media:	Katie Hutchins
Fundraising:	Patti Christie
Librarian:	Diana Cmeyla
Programs:	Lisa Zinn
Publicity:	Beth Aitcheson
Social Affairs:	Peggy Carpenter
Production:	James Jones
	Cary Oien
Music Director:	C. Alexander Smith
Assistant Director:	Melanie Bolas
Accompanist:	Brittany Bache

Section Leaders

Soprano:	Erin Shafferman
Alto:	Annette Richards
Tenor:	Lori Costello
Bass:	Jonathan Brick

Music Music



Saturday March 16th is our major fundraiser for this season! Come out and support your chorus at this fun-filled event! Join walkers, joggers, and runners of all ages and paces to celebrate music and St. Patrick's Day!



www.bringsings.com
<https://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeChorale/>



JANUARY

Denise Dailey-1/2
Tami Jones-1/9
Jerry Baker-1/23

FEBRUARY

Jodi Stone-2/4
Liz Wise-2/9
Kimberley Richardson-2/11
Lisa Zinn-2/16
Katie Hutchins-2/18
Kathy Flanagan-2/19
Johncie Carlson-2/20
Cynthia Rafala-2/20
Liz Triplett-2/22

MARCH

Jonita Henshaw-3/3
Beth Aitcheson-3/5
Monique Smith-3/8
Fred Schottman-3/12
Jenn Jenkins-3/16
Andy Keyes-3/25

♪♪ They say
it's your
birthday.....
Happy
birthday to
you....♪♪

Christmas Concert 2018



“Songs for the Season”

CONCERT INFORMATION

Sat, May 18th
Open Door Baptist Church
7:00 PM

Saturday, May 19th
Culpeper Baptist Church
3:00 PM



**“Singing
is my life.
It has
always
been my
life. It
will
always be
my life.”**
Celia Cruz

The Blue Ridge Chorale would like to
WELCOME the following singers to our chorus:

Morgan Anderson-Alto	Judi Laganga-Alto
Tracy Anderson-Alto	Otis Mosley-Tenor
Debby Evans-Soprano	Nellie Santinga-Alto
Carol Galbraith-Alto	Doug Schmit-Bass
Anita Goss-Soprano	Carl Walbroehl-Tenor
Peggy Halderman-Alto	Victoria Walbroehl-Soprano
Andy Keyes-Bass	Liz Wize-Alto

We are happy you are here and look forward to
singing with you!!

The Blue Ridge Chorale of Culpeper, Inc.
P.O. Box 1871
Culpeper, Virginia, 22701
540-219-8837



If you know of someone who likes to sing, please have them contact:

info@brcsings.com

