



2014

Mission Statement, Membership Standards, Attendance Policy

Mission

To glorify God, proclaim God's word, and minister to one another through excellent and authentic presentations of sacred music and worship leadership at BelPres Church, and beyond.

Membership Requirements

- Membership is for the entire season, September through the beginning of June
- Commitment to the choir's Mission and Membership Standards

Membership Standards

Bel Canto is a worship leadership choir on which the worship life of our community relies.

Therefore, Bel Canto members and their family recognize:

- Attendance is one of the most crucial elements of our ministry
- Our rehearsal time is less than half of that of comparable choirs, making each rehearsal minute highly treasured
- We average only 3 rehearsals to each worship service presentation
- We move at a quick pace and cover a large amount of difficult music in each rehearsal
- Singers can practice at home, but it is impossible to make up ensemble rehearsals
- Singers rely on one another to learn music and build the Choir Team, so each singer's role as a team member is significant
- Absences, for whatever reason, can require the choir to abandon music that has been rehearsed for weeks or even cancel worship participation, leaving the worship service without musical leadership.

Attendance Policy "*Prioritize, Plan, Communicate*"

- Absences are always communicated in advance
 - Notification is provided as far in advance as possible and in person with the Director
 - In case of emergencies or last minute illness, the director is contacted as soon as possible--we don't want to worry about you and would like to pray for you!
- Conflicts due to required school activities and illness may be unavoidable, however, non-essential conflicts (those which can be avoided) undermine our Team and ministry.

Attendance Standards

1. **Prioritize** your activities around Bel Canto commitments.
2. **Communicate** essential, unavoidable conflicts to the director as soon as possible but no less than eight weeks ahead to enable the choir to prepare appropriate music for worship.
3. If a problem arises on the day of rehearsal, please call the church at (425) 454-3082, Ext. 3308, and leave a detailed message.

4. As a general rule, two non-consecutive absences per semester can be accommodated for essential conflicts. In special situations, three absences. Any more than that and the choir's presentation and the singer's membership may be in jeopardy. Please "Prioritize, Plan, and Communicate".
5. Even if singers have attended all the preceding rehearsals before a worship service or concert it may not be in the best interest of the group for the singer who has missed a dress rehearsal to participate in worship or performance. Please talk to the director.
6. Singers arrive on time and attend the entire rehearsal. Singers needing to arrive late or leave early will make arrangements, before the rehearsal, with the director.
7. Running late? If at all possible, text a friend in Bel Canto to let them know you will be late, then meet with the director during break or after rehearsal to explain the situation.
8. All singers participate in both worship services on Sunday morning.

Quarterly Calendar Review

The director needs to be assured of the singer's participation to select appropriate music for the choir and worship. The "Quarterly Calendar Review" form standardizes singers' review of their calendar with their parent to confirm participation, identify unavoidable conflicts, and communicate with the director in advance.

Leave of Absence

If a situation due to poor health, remedial school work, or an exceptional educational opportunity arises during the season that requires missing more than two consecutive rehearsals, please contact the director and request a Leave of Absence. (This is not intended for annual or regular use.)

Activities

A calendar is provided in August for the entire season.

- Rehearsals: Wednesdays, September to June, 5.45p-7.15p
- Sunday Worship: as scheduled, monthly, September through June.
- Retreat, overnight; third Friday in Sept.
- Festival worship: Thanksgiving Day, Advent, Christmas Eve (11.00p), Palm Sunday
- Concerts, tours, festivals, musicals: other opportunities may be planned or develop during the season – we'll give you plenty of advance notice.
- Year-End Dessert and senior recognition

Please sign and return. Thank you!

I understand and agree to the Bel Canto Membership Requirements and Standards, Attendance Policies and Standards

Parent's signature _____ Parent's name (print) _____

Singer's signature _____ Singer's name (print) _____