



## **PPM FAQs**

### **WHO ARE WE?**

Princeton Pro Musica includes a 100-voice symphonic chorus of volunteer singers and professional section leaders; a fully-professional orchestra; and a 25-voice chamber chorus drawn from the symphonic chorus.

Our singers come from all walks of life, range in age from recent college graduates to retirees, and bring a rich variety of musical experiences and perspectives to the ensemble. We are happy to be an ensemble home for some singers who are, or who have been, music educators. Some singers have training as instrumentalists, and some study voice privately as a complement to their participation in PPM. Most, though, have careers in fields other than music and enjoy the opportunity to sing, as part of a group, at a high level.

### **WHERE AND WHEN ARE REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES?**

Rehearsals take place Tuesday evenings, 7:30-10, mid-September through mid-May in Princeton.

In a typical season there are four performances (November, December, March, and May), given in venues throughout the greater Princeton area, including Richardson Auditorium and the Princeton University Chapel, on the campus of Princeton University, and Patriot's Theater at the Trenton War Memorial.

### **WHAT LEVEL OF TRAINING DO I NEED?**

Professional training as a musician is not required. Because of the rehearsal pace necessitated by performing four programs a year, after fewer than ten rehearsals, all singers are expected to have fluency reading music notation, and either solid sight singing skills or the ability to learn pitches and rhythms outside of the rehearsal using a variety of tools.

### **WHAT KIND OF VOICE ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?**

No two voices in Princeton Pro Musica are the same; its members' voices are as varied and distinctive as the members themselves. The Artistic Director believes that the most beautiful choral sound is one that balances a variety of colors rather than blends all voices into a single hue. The bulk of the music that Princeton Pro Musica sings comes from the symphonic choral-



orchestral repertoire of the 17<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and we seek voices with the range and flexibility to bring that music to life. We strive in rehearsal and performance for all voices, from the biggest to the smallest, to sing with clear pitch, colorful resonance, good rhythm, and palpable musicality.

## **WHAT IS REQUIRED IF I AM ACCEPTED?**

### **Covid-19 Vaccination**

Any PPM staff, singer, or volunteer wishing to participate in in-person PPM-sponsored activities must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The board has resolved to prioritize the health and safety of our singers, staff, and community above all else. This new requirement is a direct result of that commitment. Continued Covid restrictions such as masking and distancing will be enforced on a situational basis.

### **Rehearsal Attendance**

Each Member is expected to sing every scheduled performance. Each Member is expected to attend all rehearsals in their entirety. Two missed rehearsals per concert period are permitted, after which participation is at the discretion of the Artistic Director. Attendance at the dress rehearsal for each concert is mandatory. Poor rehearsal or concert attendance may result in the termination of Membership.

### **Dues**

Payment of dues is a condition for participation in any activity of Princeton Pro Musica. Dues for new members joining at the start of the season and for all returning members regardless of return date are \$300. At least one installment payment is due at or before the first rehearsal. Dues are not pro-rated based on which concerts you sing.

Dues can be paid in full or via monthly installments over 10 months. There is a discount for music educators, and a limited number of scholarships are available.

In accordance with IRS rules, dues are not tax-deductible. Your dues are a “participation fee” that helps defray the cost of rehearsal space, accompanist fees, and salaries—a small percentage of our general operating expenses.

### **Volunteering**

Members are encouraged to volunteer for a variety of tasks including publicity, rehearsal set up and office work. Chorus members also serve on the Board of Trustees. We hope that everyone will find a niche, and will contribute some time to chorus operations.