

## **Choo-Choo Chorus Audition Information**

Interested in joining the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Chorus for an evening of great singing and fellowship? Read on for details on how to join us as a guest and what it takes to become a performing member of our organization.

### **Guests**

We rehearse every Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:30 PM at the All Saints Academy building at 310 E. Eighth St. Parking is just past the building and free. Guests are welcome at every rehearsal. As a first-time guest, we will ask you a few questions about your singing background and help you select the proper barbershop part (tenor, lead, baritone, or bass) for your range. Then we will give you some music and start singing right away! There is no audition to sing with us as a guest. We will ask an experienced member of your section to sing next to you so he can answer any questions you may have as the evening progresses. Don't worry if you can't read sheet music. We provide learning CDs for most of our songs and you can learn to read barbershop sheet music as your love for the hobby grows. All you need is the ability to match a pitch being played on a piano. We can teach you the rest. Also, don't worry about your age. We have members from under 18 to over 80 ringing beautiful chords together, smiling and laughing all the while.

We start each rehearsal with a warm-up session with the Associate Director from 7:00 – 7:20, then the Director takes over for an hour, usually teaching us new music. Then we have quick announcements from the board members and a short break. Then it's back to singing until around 9:30. We are a performing and competing chorus with over a dozen performances every year, so we are constantly reviewing our repertoire and learning new songs for upcoming performances and competitions.

### **Membership Information**

If you have been a visitor for three weeks and you think this is the kind of organization that you would enjoy being a part of; see the Membership Involvement VP to begin the process. He can guide you down the path to membership. It is not a difficult path and most of the steps are designed to ensure that you will get the most out of your time with us. It generally consists of these five steps:

**1. The Pre-Audition** Your section leader will stand with you during rehearsal or listen to you sing in a pick-up quartet to determine if you are ready for the next phase. If you are not, they can give you advice on how to better prepare yourself. You may retake this phase as many times as you like. We want everyone to feel relaxed and confident going into the Vocal Analysis phase.

**2. The Vocal Analysis** Using information from the Pre-Audition or from a separate individual singing session, one or more of the Director(s), Music Leadership VP, and section leader will inspect your vocal ability and make sure that you are singing the proper part for your range and with the quality required to be part of our performing chorus. Feel free to ask the Music Leadership VP about this phase if you have any questions.

**3. The Application** The Secretary will give you an application to fill out and bring back to the next rehearsal. You can find this application and information about annual dues on the Barbershop Harmony Society's website (<http://barbershop.org>).

**4. Costuming and Music** The Costume Manager will give you a list of costume parts that you will be responsible for maintaining. The Chorus pays for some of the cost of the costumes. The Chorus Librarian will give you your own copy of each piece of music from our repertoire. You will be responsible for bringing it to each rehearsal.

**5. Preparation** You learn the music at your own pace and, when you feel you are ready, join the performing chorus at Sing-Outs and competitions. The Music Leadership VP or your section leader will give you the details of our Riser-Ready Program, designed to make sure that all of our members are qualified to sing in public.

Over time, you may decide to join a quartet or form your own. You may wish to sit on the board and make sure the organization is still thriving for generations to come. There are many jobs to be done in the chapter, each of them important, and you can contribute in however many ways you wish. From the President of the Board to building sets; from organizing music to taking out the trash; there is a place for people of all talents to contribute.