



# Opus One

Berks Chamber Choir

## SEASON XI HANDBOOK & INFO SHEET

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE READING SING!

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Opus One: Berks Chamber Choir

PO BOX 6332, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Website: [www.OpusOneChamberChoir.com](http://www.OpusOneChamberChoir.com)

Email: [info@opusonechamberchoir.com](mailto:info@opusonechamberchoir.com)

### **STAFF:**

Christopher Hoster, *Executive Director*

[christopherhoster@gmail.com](mailto:christopherhoster@gmail.com)

610.334.1188

Geert Ruelens, *Accompanist*

[geert.ruelens1990@gmail.com](mailto:geert.ruelens1990@gmail.com)

610.655.5649

Mikaila Milks, Assistant to the Executive Director

[milks.mikaila@gmail.com](mailto:milks.mikaila@gmail.com)

### **BOARD OFFICERS:**

Diana Cook, President / [diandlindy@aol.com](mailto:diandlindy@aol.com) / 610.763.4094

Scott Tice, Vice President / [stice2310@gmail.com](mailto:stice2310@gmail.com) / 610.607.3950

Wendy Sharp, Secretary / [wendae@comcast.net](mailto:wendae@comcast.net) / 610.929.3726

Deborah Brooks, Treasurer / [db\\_sings@yahoo.com](mailto:db_sings@yahoo.com) / 610.334.6660

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## ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of **Opus One: Berks Chamber Choir** is to provide local vocal musicians an affordable artistic venue to collaborate and perform a varied repertoire of choral music in a positive learning environment. Through quality performances of music from different time periods, cultures, languages, and genres, Opus One hopes to encourage participation, understanding, and appreciation of the choral arts in our community

### **NON-PROFIT:**

**Opus One: Berks Chamber Choir** is a registered 501(c)3, nonprofit, charitable organization. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. [EIN: 46-1610644]

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:**

**Opus One: Berks Chamber Choir** does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, familial status, religious creed, ancestry, handicap or disability, age, sex orientation, gender, national origin, the use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals in regard to the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to the participants in the chorus, in the administration of its policies, admissions/auditions, scholarship programs, or any other chorus-administered programs.

## SEASON XI INFORMATION

### Participation:

Opus One is comprised of individuals with varying levels of musical ability. As part of our mission, we encourage all members of our community to participate in the choral art form. In rare instances, membership will be denied based on vocal quality, lack of technique, or inability to read music.

#### *Non-Refundable Participation Fee*

\* Annual Participation Fees = \$175 [Early Registration Participation Fee = \$150]

\* Masterwork Chorus Participation Fee = \$75

### Auditions:

Admittance to the choir will be through a short audition/ 'vocal check' with the director(s). No prepared selections are required. The audition will consist of a few vocal warm-ups and sight-reading one or more familiar hymns. Auditions will be scheduled on a rolling basis (throughout the season) with the director.

### Rehearsals:

Opus One will meet weekly on Sundays from 6:00 – 8:30pm at St. John Baptist de la Salle Catholic Church (420 Holland St, Shillington, PA 19607). Please use the parking lot to the rear of the church. Please always conduct yourself appropriately in the church.

Rehearsals may be separated into sectionals. In most instances, these sectional rehearsals will be divided into two time periods (6:00 – 7:15pm / 7:15 – 8:30pm).

'Workshop Rehearsals' occur periodically throughout the season. At these extended rehearsals (4:00 – 8:30pm), there will be a designated time for a meal break. Please bring your own food items, utensils, napkins, etc. Cold items may be stored in the refrigerator in the Fr. Lyons room.

### ATTENDANCE POLICIES

- Please list all known conflicts on the Participant Info Sheet.
- Prompt and regular attendance is expected.
- Dress Rehearsals and Recording Days are **mandatory**.
- 2 absences per concert are allowed. At three absences, you must submit to a vocal check with the director to determine whether you will be allowed to participate in the concert.
- 4 absences per half season automatically disqualifies you from the ensemble for that half of the season. Singers may petition the board to be allowed to participate. These petitions must show just cause for the extended absence and have the approval of the director.

\*\* If for any reason you cannot attend/ will be late to a rehearsal, please contact Diana Cook with as much notice as possible. [Diana Cook: [diandlindy@aol.com](mailto:diandlindy@aol.com) / (610) 763 – 4094].

\*\* Director reserves the right to refuse participation in any concert based on the preparation level of individual singers.

### REHEARSALS RECORDED ON ZOOM

All weekly rehearsals will be recorded and made available on the Google Classroom for those who are ill, need to quarantine, or who for another reason cannot attend rehearsal in-person. It is understood that singers who miss rehearsals will watch the rehearsals they have missed.

### **Concerts:**

Opus One will present several concert events this season. Please consult the Season XI Schedule for dates/locations. Only those who are well-prepared will be allowed to participate in concert events. All in-person tickets will be purchased 'at the door'. Some concert events will be available online through *TicketSpice* after the in-person event has already occurred. Audience members who wish to view concerts online will register for access by purchasing a ticket online. After, they will receive an email containing a link to the embedded concert video which will be made available for a week-long period. Ticket prices vary depending on the particular event.

### **ECHO:**

ECHO is Opus One's select ensemble. Participation is through audition. ECHO rehearsals are scheduled after participants are selected. ECHO may perform as part of a regular Opus One concert and/or perform in a concert of their own. ECHO repertoire is usually more challenging and requires more individual preparation.

### **ATTIRE:**

***Appropriate dress is expected at all times.***

Concert Dress: "*Concert Black*"

MEN – black long sleeve dress shirt, black slacks, black socks, black shoes (no sneakers)

WOMEN – black blouse or shirt, black slacks / black skirt (below knee), black shoes (no stilettos), no large jewelry

**\*\*NO COLOGNE, PERFUME, OR SCENTS OF ANY KIND (rehearsals / performances)**

If you have questions about what is appropriate, please consult the *Participation Committee Chair, Scott Tice*  
[stice2310@gmail.com](mailto:stice2310@gmail.com)

### **PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES / CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Opus One seeks to create a safe, nurturing, professional, positive learning environment in which we can promote community, respect, and musical growth/development. Participants in any of Opus One programs will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Participants agree to the following obligations:

- \* Participants will demonstrate prompt and regular attendance.*
- \* Participants are expected to do personal preparation (rehearsal) between meetings.*
- \* Inappropriate behavior in any rehearsal/ concert setting will not be tolerated.*
- \* Discrimination of any kind (bullying, racism, homophobia, sexism, ageism etc) will not be tolerated.*
- \* Smoking/ drinking / or being under the influence of any intoxicant during any Opus One activity is not permitted.*

Any violation of these guidelines will be dealt with swiftly by the directors and/or board of directors and may result in the dismissal from the organization. All participation fees are non-refundable.

### **COVID Protocols:[subject to change]**

*All participants in the choir will...*

- 1) Be encouraged to be vaccinated and boosted against Covid-19
- 2) Refrain from attending in-person rehearsals when ill or when testing positive for Covid-19
- 3) Promptly inform Opus One leadership if you ever test positive for Covid-19
- 4) Maintain adequate social distance and good hygiene practices
- 5) Maintain adequate social distance from other participants
- 6) Refrain from sharing materials or handling another participant's materials
- 7) Avoid habitual use of restrooms at the rehearsal location. Hand washing is required
- 8) Avoid unnecessary gathering and chatting in the rehearsal/performance space before, during, and after rehearsals and performance

