

CHERRY CREEK CHORALE VOCAL PLACEMENT

The following statements, which are contained in the Member Handbook, are the Cherry Creek Chorale Vision and Mission statements.

VISION: To actively build our choral unity, knowledge, and artistry while expanding and strengthening our value to the community through collaboration, outreach, and innovation.

MISSION: To offer engaging and versatile musical experiences that connect singers and audiences, and to be a catalyst for collaborative performances that share our artistic excellence and passionate communication of the choral art.

We celebrate that our membership includes a diversity of vocal ability and experience. Consistent with our Vision & Mission, the Board of Directors is instituting vocal placement sessions. Our goal is to assist the director and the members. The sessions add to the director's knowledge and memory of each member's voice, enabling them to place singers in the group (voice placement) and assist singers in their vocal development. This knowledge is especially helpful to the director as the chorale experiments with new and different riser formations and accommodates personnel changes when members are unable to sing a particular concert. The sessions benefit the members by giving them the opportunity to be heard by the director in a non-threatening environment, to ask questions and obtain help or support if necessary. This program aids the ensemble by ensuring that members are placed optimally and are singing to the best of their ability.

Every two to four years, members will make appointments to sing for the director, either alone or in groups of two or three. If the member wishes to sing with one or two other singers, they will be singers of the member's own choosing. The review is emphatically NOT a re-audition and will consist of the following:

- 1) Singing the first two and one half lines of "America" in different vocal ranges
- 2) Vocalizing to determine current range and vocal color
- 3) Slowly singing an ascending and descending major scale a cappella
- 4) Singing a crescendo/decrescendo exercise

NOTE: The session will be audio recorded and is only for the director's use.

The member will have the opportunity to discuss any concerns or questions they may have. The review should last 5-10 minutes and will be done as a part of semi-annual new member auditions and/or prior to regular Tuesday rehearsals. We anticipate that the process will take at most four years (one section per year) or at minimum two years (one section per semester) to complete. At that point, at the discretion of the Board and director, the process will repeat.

As a result of the reviews, the following may occur:

- 1) The member will continue in their current section.
- 2) The member may be re-assigned to a different section more appropriate to their vocal range.
- 3) The member may be asked to stand or sit in a different place within the section or choir to enhance their voice and the voices of those around them.
- 4) The member's vocal color classification may be changed (Flashlight/Blender/Moon).
- 5) The member may be enrolled in a series of up to 6 voice lessons (paid for by the Chorale with an approved instructor) to address and assist with any vocal concerns. After the series of lessons has been completed, the member and director will meet to assess their progress and decide next steps.

We want to ensure that each member can enjoy a long and fruitful singing life, and that the Chorale continues to present the very best choral product.

Thank you for your part in making this program a success for each individual singing member and the ensemble as a singing family.