

# **SOLARIS VOCAL ENSEMBLE**

## **Fall 2026 + Spring 2027 Membership Information and Expectations**

The aim of the Solaris Vocal Ensemble is to create exciting and inspiring concerts of high-quality and expressive classical choral repertoire.

Solaris' fall 2026 performances will be on Saturday, Dec 19 in Waterbury and Sunday, Dec 20 in Burlington. Solaris' spring 2027 performances will be on Saturday, April 10 in Montpelier and Sunday, April 11 in Burlington.

### **Rehearsal Attendance Policy**

Solaris rehearses on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:15 at College Street Congregational Church in Burlington. Rehearsals are extended to 9:30 for roughly the last 6 weeks prior to the concert weekend. Rehearsals begin early September and continue through the December performances and resume in January through the performances in April.

- Timely participation in all regular rehearsals is required. **Singers are expected to not miss more than three (3) regular rehearsals in a concert preparation period.** Additional absences for emergencies or other reasons will necessitate a consultation with the Board of Directors.
- Singers not in compliance with this attendance policy will have their ability to participate in an upcoming concert assessed by the Board of Directors.
- **Singers experiencing active cold, flu, Covid or other symptoms should not attend rehearsal.** Anyone with mild issues well past the contagious point can request the option to sit in the back masked for a rehearsal.
- **Attendance at the dress rehearsal is mandatory.** Dress rehearsal is closed to guests.
- Occasionally music will need to be memorized for performance. Singers must be willing and able to memorize selected repertoire as necessary for various concerts.
- Lastly, all singers are expected to work on their Solaris music between rehearsals, and to come to rehearsal with their music prepared.

### **Financial Expectations**

Choir membership fees are \$50 per year.

Music Fees are charged per semester and run approximately \$60 per year. Singers will retain their music.

### **Concert Attire Policy**

Concert attire for men is black tux, white tux shirt (non-wing collar), and black bow tie.

Concert attire for women includes the Solaris black top and black skirt. Opaque black hose and closed-toe shoes. Moderate size earrings are fine but no necklaces, please.

### **Re-audition Policy for All Members**

A brief re-audition process will occur for Solaris members every 2 years in the spring semester. Many of the best choirs throughout the US re-audition singers on a regular basis to help ensure that an excellent ensemble will continue to achieve its highest musical goals.

### **Additional Expectations**

In addition to utilizing their vocal gifts and talents, Solaris members are needed to help with various activities of the organization related to the growth and health of the ensemble.

### **Solaris Leave of Absence Policy (LOA)**

Every member of Solaris is an important part of this ensemble and when a singer requests a LOA then a replacement singer needs to be found in order for the choir to maintain the finely-tuned choral balance between sections which is one of the hallmarks of this fine ensemble. Any leave of absence must be approved by the Artistic Director. A request for a LOA needs to be submitted in writing or by email by JUNE 15 for the next season. Anyone submitting a request after that date needs to be aware that unless a replacement is found before the first rehearsal in the fall, he or she will be expected to pay for the full packet of music for the next season since that music is ordered in the summer. Singers requesting a one-semester LOA will be encouraged to take the spring off rather than the fall because music sung in the fall is occasionally repeated in the spring semester without giving it additional rehearsal time. Any member that is absent from Solaris for more than 1 year will need to re-audition in order to return to the ensemble.