Welcome!

*Members of Pilgrim Festival Chorus are singers who have successfully auditioned, bring unique talents, and fully participate in our concert season as a valued part of our community.*

The *Member Handbook* contains general guidelines and related information. Please review the handbook thoroughly and refer to it as needed. Contact the Artistic Directors; President; other Officers; or Section Leaders at any time with questions or concerns.

**Artistic Directors**
William B. Richter (director@pilgrimfestivalchorus.org)  
Elizabeth Chapman Reilly (ecreilly45@gmail.com)

**Board of Directors**

**Officers & Executive Committee**
President – Sara Weiss (saraWsings@aol.com)  
Vice President – Kaelin Jenkins-Brown (kjenkins350@aol.com)  
Secretary – David Tyler (david.tyler@mail.mcgill.ca)  
Treasurer – Eliza Schacht (eliza_schacht@hotmail.com)  

**Board Members**
Katie Allen  
Christine Conrod  
Michaela Coombs  
Peg Davis  
Jim Doyle  
Moe Rondeau  
Jared Wise  
Susan Wolfthal  
Immediate Past President – Hannah Woodbury  

**Section Leaders**
Soprano – Susan Wolfthal (sfwolfthal@icloud.com)  
Alto – Beth Frasso (beth.frasso@gmail.com)  
Tenor – Jared Wise (jawise696@gmail.com)  
Bass – David Tyler (david.tyler@mail.mcgill.ca)
Mission; Core Values; Vision

Mission
Pilgrim Festival Chorus is a volunteer, not-for-profit choral ensemble dedicated to presenting diverse choral works that educate, enrich, and engage both its members and its audiences.

Core Values
We believe that singing in community and experiencing choral performance can be transformational. With that in mind, our core values are to:

• Promote the joy of making music together.
• Furnish opportunities for members to improve their musical skills.
• Provide performance opportunities for chorus members.
• Further an appreciation of good choral music.
• Nurture an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members and audiences.
• Contribute to the vitality of our community through fostering a rich cultural life.

Vision
We envision a more diverse audience and membership and seek opportunities to present our works to underserved communities in southeastern Massachusetts. Through our work we aim to inspire a love and appreciation for choral singing in present and future generations.
Auditioning for Pilgrim Festival Chorus

Pilgrim Festival Chorus holds auditions for new members two times a year. Auditions for our Christmas concert take place in September and auditions for our spring concert take place in January. The first two rehearsals for each concert season are open rehearsals. A prospective member is welcome to sing at these rehearsals before making a commitment to join PFC. Additional auditions and re-voicing may be conducted for existing members at the discretion of the Artistic Directors. To arrange an audition for Pilgrim Festival Chorus, please contact: director@pilgrimfestivalchorus.org. The audition schedule is on the events calendar.

Chorus Membership

Rehearsals:
Mondays from 7:00pm-9:00pm at Faith Community Church, 29 Carver Road, Plymouth, MA.

See the event calendar on PFC’s website for information about rehearsals, dress rehearsals, concert dates, times, and locations. Changes to the rehearsal schedule, including weather delays or cancellations, will be announced and sent via email prior to rehearsal.

Rehearsal reminders:
- Contact the Secretary with any changes to your contact information including phone number(s), email address, or mailing address. We depend on accurate information to keep everyone informed.
- Try to arrive 10-15 minutes early to ensure we can start promptly.
- Be respectful of the Artistic Directors by giving them your full attention and refrain from talking, which disturbs your fellow singers, until a call for a “break”.
- Silence or turn off cell phones. They can be a distraction to you and your neighbors.
- If you must take a call during rehearsal, please promptly leave the rehearsal room.
- Refrain from wearing scented personal care products such as perfume; aftershave; lotion; hair products, etc., at rehearsals and performances.
- Try not to miss rehearsals. We need all scheduled rehearsal time to ensure quality performances. When you miss a rehearsal, you may miss important messages from the Artistic Directors or Board of Directors.
- Contact the Secretary and your Section Leader if you will be absent.
- If you are not feeling well, please do not attend rehearsal!
**Attendance policy:**
Regular attendance at rehearsals is necessary to preserve the excellence of our performances. Therefore, members are asked to attend a minimum of 80% of all rehearsals. Those who cannot meet this obligation will have their status reviewed by the Board of Directors and the Artistic Directors to assess concert readiness. For planned extended absences, please speak with the Artistic Directors.

**Membership policy:**
In accordance with Pilgrim Festival Chorus bylaws, **PFC membership is an annual commitment for active members.** Annual dues are established yearly by the Board of Directors. See Pilgrim Festival Chorus Bylaws for our policy on retaining active membership.

**Membership dues:**
Dues are paid at the start of each concert cycle (September, January, and May). Dues should be paid in full by the third rehearsal to participate as an active singer. Members who are students currently enrolled in high school or an undergraduate or graduate course of study may apply for “half-dues status” and should consult the Treasurer for further details. Dues can be paid on our secure website portal or by check at rehearsal.

**Music costs:**
The cost of music is assessed at the start of each concert cycle. Payment can be made with membership dues on our secure website portal or by check/cash at rehearsal.

**Financial assistance policy:**
The Board of Directors has instituted a policy for members who may not be able to fully pay membership dues and music fees. A financial assistance form is available for members who want to request assistance; who require a payment plan; or for students who qualify for half-dues status. Extraordinary circumstances of need will be confidentially dealt with by the President on a case-by-case basis.
Concert Preparation

Concert Attire

Sopranos and altos wear black 3/4 sleeve, cowl-neck blouses, black floor-length skirts, black stockings, and black shoes. Skirts should be no shorter than 6” above the floor. Dressy black palazzo-style pants are acceptable. If a member wishes to wear any additional attire for the concert, please talk with the President. Jewelry, if worn, must not be distracting.

Blouses are ordered through PFC. Sample blouses in various sizes will be available to try on at a rehearsal and will be ordered for you. To look at the blouse and a size chart: Performance Knit Blouse-BLK Formal Fashions Inc. Product #9793AA (select color: black; use size chart to determine size-runs small)

Skirts may be ordered by an individual from Formal Fashions or elsewhere:
Skirt option #1 (select color: black; select fabric: AA performance knit; use size chart)
Skirt option #2 (select color: black; select fabric: AA performance knit; use size chart)

Palazzo pants may be ordered by an individual from Formal Fashions or elsewhere:
Palazzo pant option #1 (use size chart to determine size)
Palazzo pant option #2 (select color: black; select fabric: AA performance knit; use size chart)

Tenors and basses wear tuxedos with a white shirt, black bow ties, black socks, and black shoes. Waistcoats are not required. Cummerbunds are optional. For holiday concerts, tenors and basses wear red bow ties. (Formal Fashions, Inc. #8250 satin red or black.) Red bow ties will be ordered by PFC and available to purchase.

Summer Concert Attire

All members wear any combination of black and white. Formal concert attire is not necessary. No denim, shorts, off-the-shoulder, cleavage, bare belly, or flip flops are allowed. Based on the program, this guideline may change and will be announced and shared with members well before the concerts. Please contact the President with any questions or concerns.
Music Folders
Black choral music folders are used for all concerts and performances. Members can visit musicfolder.com or call 1-877-246-7253 (toll-free) to find a variety of styles. Many PFC members use this style - “The Deluxe Black Folder”: PFC music folder. Amazon.com also offers competitive pricing for many of the same models. PFC may purchase music folders in bulk to reduce costs. Please speak to the President if you need one or have questions.

Learning Tools
A YouTube playlist and other practice tools will be emailed to members for each concert. CyberBass contains parts to some of the major pieces that we sing. Spotify, Apple Music or other music streaming services are helpful when looking for full recordings. It is important to use these tools between rehearsals so that you can more easily learn your part especially challenging sections.

PLEASE NOTE: If there are circumstances that prevent you from adhering to any of the above Pilgrim Festival Chorus policies and guidelines, please speak to the President. All music-related questions should be directed to the Artistic Directors or your Section Leader.
Fundraising

Ticket Sales
Tickets for PFC concerts are available for purchase online through the PFC website, in person through a PFC member, or at the concert box office. All members are given four tickets to sell. Ticket money or unsold tickets should be returned to the ticket coordinator before the first dress rehearsal.

Ticket prices for Christmas and spring concerts are $25 for adults (age 18-64); $20 for seniors (age 65+); $15 for students (age 15-17). Children 14 and under are free. Messiah Sing tickets are $10. Children under 12 are free. Summer concerts are $15 (age 15+). Children 14 and under are free.

Business Sponsor Advertising Campaign
Membership dues, concert ticket sales, grants, corporate sponsorships, and the annual business sponsor advertising campaign enable Pilgrim Festival Chorus to offset the costs of producing quality concerts.

The business sponsor advertising campaign is a grassroots effort led by the chorus membership to encourage local community businesses to support Pilgrim Festival Chorus, its concert programs, and its educational mission by purchasing advertising space in the upcoming season’s program books. Ads also run digitally on PFC’s website with a link to the business’s own website. A comprehensive pricing structure makes it easy for businesses of all sizes to support PFC and the arts. The business sponsor advertising campaign is announced each September. More information is on PFC’s website: Advertise With Us

Pilgrim Festival Chorus is grateful to its friends, donors, business sponsors, Mass Cultural Council and its local cultural councils, and See Plymouth for their generous support.
Chorus as Community

We hope that members will become friends as well as fellow singers. The Board of Directors hosts several social events throughout the season. Members also gather informally after rehearsals or concerts.

Brown Bag Socials:
PFC holds rehearsals on federal holidays that fall on a Monday, including Columbus Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Patriots Day, and Memorial Day. Prior to these rehearsals, chorus members are invited to bring dinner and enjoy a “Brown Bag Social” in the rehearsal hall from 5:30pm-6:45pm. Announcements will be made at rehearsals about whether Brown Bag Socials will take place.

_The greatest respect an artist can pay to music is to give it life._

– Pablo Casals