



## how to JOIN

### GENERAL NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

**Greetings!** We are the Staples Area Men's Chorus, and we are pleased that you are considering joining us. This information will answer some questions that you might have about who we are, what we do, and what we can expect from each other if you become a member. Additional information can be found on our web site, [www.staplesmen.org](http://www.staplesmen.org) or staples area men's chorus on facebook.

The Staples Area Men's Chorus is a group of men from central Minnesota committed to sharing a love of singing. In addition to providing a means of artistic expression for the membership, the chorus provides a good deal of fun and fellowship. We meet each Wednesday evening from September through mid-May. Our practices run for one and half hours and typically begin at 8 p.m.

As a chorus, we belong to a parent group called the Associated Male Choruses of America. This enables us to sing occasionally with other choruses and to participate in an annual "Big Sing" which involves twelve to sixteen choruses from the Upper Midwest District of the AMCA and features nearly three hundred male voices. Our chorus hosted this fabulous event in 2010 and again in 2017. Locally, we perform several times each season, including a Christmas concert, performances at area nursing homes, dinner concerts where the members wait on tables and sing between courses, and occasionally concerts with a different creative twist, such as our Sing Off concert. Each fall we facilitate a choral festival for area high school boys called REAL MEN SING! We have expanded this event to include middle school boys in a similar experience called REAL MEN SING,jr. This event usually involves over 300 singers from high schools, colleges, and the Staples Area Men's Chorus. We sing a wide variety of music and learn several new pieces each year. It is our custom to hold music during most concerts. The chorus includes men with a variety of music backgrounds and training. Some are music professionals while many others sang in high school choir or just enjoy singing in the shower. Most members read music, but some don't. Not being a music reader doesn't have to keep you out of the chorus but learning new music is easier for those who do read.

Individual chorus members pay most of their own expenses. Members are expected to purchase a tuxedo, which can be obtained from a variety of sources and can vary significantly in price, depending on quality. Many of the members have found sources of used tuxes which are usually quite economical. You might start your search by checking the internet and making a few follow-up phone calls. The chorus receives some support from grants and this year we have received significant grant assistance for specific projects. We also generate income from our concerts and CD sales. Our expenses include the purchase of new music, payment of a modest salary for our accompanist and conductor and an annual recording session.

Our accompanist is Sandy Paskewitz and our conductor/artistic director is Steve Hoemberg, [stevehoemberg@gmail.com](mailto:stevehoemberg@gmail.com). 218-296-1977.

Other information pertinent to new members includes:

- Basic black tuxedos with pleated shirts, bow ties, and cummerbunds may be purchased new or used from a variety of sources for quite a range of prices.
- Sometimes the rehearsal scheduled for the next Wednesday following a performance is eliminated.
- Black music folders might be available or can be purchased on line.
- The rehearsal program is usually sent by text or e-mailed prior to each rehearsal by the director
- Business for the chorus is conducted at a meeting of the board of directors on the first Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend board meetings.
- Usually before an out of town performance, some local members meet in the high school parking lot to pool rides. Members from out of town frequently pool rides to rehearsals.
- If there is ANYTHING else about the chorus you would like to know, ask any member. We want you to feel comfortable, welcome, and appreciated. We hope you will consider joining us. Feel free to invite a friend.