



# 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 hopefully answer some questions you might have about who we are, what we do and what you 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 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 the opportunity for fun and fellowship. We have various social events during the year like golfing and fishing, have afterglows or gatherings after performances and we gather after rehearsals. You will also see that the chorus members are there for support as we go through what life throws at all of us. We rehearse each Wednesday evening at the Staples Motley high school chorus room door entrance #25 from September through mid May. Our practices run for an hour and half typically beginning at 8 pm.

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 amazing event in 2010 and again in 2017. Locally we perform several times each season, including an act at the Little Red caboose variety show in August, a Christmas concert in December, performances at area churches and nursing homes, a spring fundraiser dinner concert with a theme each year, a May community appreciation event, interact with high school choirs to promote life long singing and respond to singing requests like national anthem at games, season of lights for remembrance of hospice patients, community fundraising events, holiday celebrations and retirement and anniversary events.

Each fall, we facilitate a fall choral festival for area middle school and high school boys. This event usually involves over 300 singers from high schools, colleges and the Staples Area Mens Chorus. We sing a variety of music and learn several new pieces each year. The event involves the purchase of choral music which the area schools can take and put in their music library.

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 others sang in high school and others just enjoy singing in the shower. Most members read music but not being able to read music should not keep you from joining the chorus. We offer choral tracks where you can practice your part while singing at home on your own.

There are no dues or fees to join the chorus. However members are expected to have a tuxedo which can be obtained from a variety of sources and can vary in price depending on the quality. Many of the members have found used tuxes which are quite economical. The chorus also wears a blue polo which must be purchased. We do have a worksheet which assists you with these purchases.

The chorus receives financial support from grants, sponsorships, income from concerts and donations. The SAMC is a 501C3 and all donations are tax deductible. Our main expenses include the purchase of music and payment of a salary to our director and accompanist.

Other information which may be pertinent to new members:

- Sometimes the rehearsals scheduled for the Wednesday after a performance is not held
- Black music folders are available from the chorus but you may buy your own if you wish
- You will be assigned a number once you join the chorus and a file in the choir room with your number will give you access to your music. At each rehearsal, you can check your file to ensure you have all your music in case music was distributed at a time when you were gone.
- There is a board of directors which meet the second Wednesday of the month prior to rehearsal. Periodic communications are sent out to all members by email and updates are presented at the rehearsals.
- Before out of town performances, some chorus members meet at the high school parking lot to pool rides. Members from out of town frequently pool rides to rehearsals.
- We know that life with family, vacations and work will not allow you to attend very rehearsal. We understand that may happen and do not want those important life activities to prevent you from joining the chorus.
- If there is anything else about the chorus you would like to know, ask any members. We want you to feel comfortable, welcome and appreciated. We hope you will consider joining us. Feel free to attend and invite a friend to come with you. Hope to be singing with you.