Viva L'Italia Choir

Guidelines for Members 2026

Background

The Viva l'Italia Choir was founded in September 2011 in the historical context of the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy. The Choir is sponsored by the Italian Canadian Foundation of Manitoba, a non-profit charitable organization established to honor the memory of loved ones who have passed away, by creating opportunities for the undertaking of cultural, educational and benevolent activities for the Italian Canadian Community in Winnipeg.

The Choir's mission is to promote and keep alive our rich Italian culture, traditions and customs through music and song, and provide an opportunity to enjoy the intrinsic benefits of singing.

Prospective members interested in group singing are encouraged to participate. Studies have shown that choral singing instills harmony and a sense of well being, reducing anxiety, stress and memory loss, while amplifying feelings of joy, trust and bonding, and many other positive benefits.

Guidelines

1. Membership is open to anyone, and while having Italian heritage is helpful it is not mandatory. The ability to read music, though desirable, is not a prerequisite.

2. Recruitment of new members must occur in a somewhat selective manner. Ongoing commitment and regular attendance are the most important criteria. Requests for, and by, potential members should be referred to the Choir Managing Director. Vacant positions will be filled as the need arises. The emphasis will be on maintaining a balance between female and male voices.

3. A firm commitment is required to attend all practices and pay attention to the Choir Conductor's instructions, directions and expectations at all times. This will help achieve a higher level of consistency and group confidence in our performances. Absences need to be reported to the Choir Managing Director ahead of time.

4. Under the artistic direction of the Choir Conductor, Tiffany Wilson, an accomplished musician and performer, and our very talented and pivotal contributions of Hiebert

Leanne on Piano and Luciano Armenti on the Accordion, the choir performs regional folk songs, popular traditional Italian music, Neapolitan songs and classical arias. Other languages may be included when appropriate and possible. Members are encouraged to provide input of their preferred songs and these will be considered as to suitability and the availability of music at the start of each year.

5. There is no set membership fee to join the Choir. Once members are confirmed they are required to provide contact details and register with the Choir Managing Director. At this point they are provided with a music binder, music sheets and a blue-ribbon scarf to be used during formal performances. In the event a member decides to leave the choir, these items must be returned to the Choir Managing Director.

6. During the year the choir has a fall session and a spring session. Each session comprises a dozen or so rehearsals. The fall session starts in late September or early October and spring session starts in late February. Practices are once a week on Saturday and take place at the Centro Caboto Library starting at 2:00PM for a one hour and 15 minutes duration.

7. Choir members are reminded that some form of fundraising effort is required during the year to help offset expenses incurred by the Italian Canadian Foundation of Manitoba with respect to the Choir's operations. There are several formal concert performances annually at which choir members are requested to participate by purchasing a ticket to cover the basic cost of their meal and to sing. However, consideration will be given to exceptional cases where members may not be able to attend for valid reasons or unforeseen circumstances. Two annual formal events of note are the Italian Community Festa di Natale in December and the Evening of Light Opera in April. Tickets issued to members for these events are subsidized by the Foundation. The total annual cost to members for these meal tickets is approximately $125.00.

8. Each spring and fall session also include a windup, usually but not always, combined with a Choir performance, and all members are encouraged to participate. There generally is no cost for these, even though food has been provided traditionally by a number of choir members and/or subsidized by the Foundation.

Revised as of September, 2026