



Joyful Voices of Inspiration
A vibrant, diverse, and spirited gospel choir

Membership Handbook, 2011-2012

Mission Statement

Joyful Voices of Inspiration is an enthusiastic community of singers who celebrates and shares the joy of gospel music. The group rejoices in the diversity of its membership and encourages singers of all ages, cultures and religious affiliations. The singers and the Director strive to create a family-like environment in which they support and mentor each other. The choir seeks to promote appreciation of gospel music as an inspirational medium and art form. The members believe that by singing together in energetic performances they bring joy and inspiration to all present. The group strives to support and participate in charitable events through their exhilarating gospel concerts.

Dues

Membership dues offset some of the operating costs of the choir. The **adult (18+ years) dues are \$75 per year. Youth dues are \$50 per year.**

For returning members, dues for the year are payable, in full, in September, unless other arrangements are made with the Clerk.

New members may attend two practices before payment is expected.

The dues are expected by the 3rd rehearsal attended. Alternative payment arrangements can be made with the clerk if necessary.

Full annual dues are expected to be paid regardless of when a member joins during the year...there is no pro-ration of dues. Cash and checks payable to **Joyful Voices of Inspiration** are accepted. Dues are non-refundable.

*New members can not be accepted after the first rehearsal in March, the thinking being that there will probably not be enough time for new members to learn all the songs in our current repertoire for our spring concert or a summer trip, if planned.

Attendance

Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Brookline Church of Christ in Brookline, 416 Washington Street, Brookline, MA 02452. It is important for everyone to be on time.

Two unexcused absences prior to a performance will mean the member may not sing in the next scheduled performance. For an excused absence, please call or e-mail *R.L. SMITH* at (978) 760-2323 (C), or (781) 259-9320 (H) and leave a message, or email RLSmith@joyfulvoices.org or rl@rlsmithonline.com

Learn Your Music!

The choir is open to all; no auditions are required and one need not be able to read music or have a trained voice. That said, it is expected that each and every member know their part and the lyrics to every song...cold.

There is also the expectation that members review and learn the music rehearsed at each rehearsal so that at subsequent rehearsals, parts do not have to be re-taught over and over again.

The PARTS PAGE on the choir's website (www.joyfulvoices.org/parts_page.htm) has **audio copies of each part for every song in our repertoire** that can be listened to and studied while online, or downloaded to a computer and/or an mp3 player.

Additionally, lyrics to all songs are also available on the PARTS PAGE. Each member is responsible for having a copy of all current songs with them at rehearsal. If you miss a rehearsal, check the website to see if a new song was introduced and print off the lyrics.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Rehearsals will begin on time and end on time. Please arrive early or plan to stay late if you wish to socialize with other members. While socializing is an important ingredient in the choir, it is very disruptive when it happens during practice. There should be no individual conversations during rehearsals, as they can distract from the Director's and the group's work. Please refrain from walking in and out of the rehearsal unnecessarily. Also, please refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes, etc. The scent can cause asthma attacks with some people, and it is common choral practice to not wear such things.

Concert Attire

All members of JVOI are expected to dress appropriately for concerts.

Standard Concert Attire (Uninterrupted Black)

MEN: will wear all black (including pants, shoes and socks), with their long-sleeve, banded collar JVOI shirt. (Ask for a shirt if you need one.)

WOMEN: will wear all black (uninterrupted black) including a long sleeve, jersey-style shirt (v-neck or crew-neck or scoop-neck are all okay, but no collars, buttons, colors, icons, etc.) together with a long black skirt (at least below the knee), black nylons and black shoes.

Colorful Standard Concert Attire

MEN: will wear black pants, shoes and socks, but with a SOLID COLOR, long sleeve collared shirt in one of the colors of the RAINBOW (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet).

WOMEN: will wear all black (uninterrupted black) including a SOLID COLOR long sleeve, jersey-style shirt (v-neck or crew-neck or scoop-neck are all okay, but no collars, buttons, logos, etc.) in one of the colors of the RAINBOW (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet). together with a long black skirt (at least below the knee), black nylons and black shoes.

Summer Attire

MEN: Black pants, shoes and socks. Shirt: A SOLID COLOR polo or button up shirt (long or short sleeve) in one of the colors of the RAINBOW (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet).

WOMEN: Black bottom, solid color top in one of the colors of the RAINBOW (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet) with sleeves, black shoes. (No nylons...too hot!)

Purple and Gray Performance Attire

MEN: will wear gray pants (or purple pants if one dares), black shoes and socks, with a SOLID PURPLE COLOR shirt.

WOMEN: will wear all any combination of PURPLE AND GRAY including a long sleeve, jersey-style shirt (v-neck or crew-neck or scoop-neck are all okay, but no collars, buttons, logos, etc.) together with a PURPLE OR GRAY skirt (at least below the knee), nylons and black shoes.

Purple and Gray Summer Attire

MEN: Black shoes and socks. Pants: PURPLE OR GRAY (should not be the same color as the shirt) Shirt: A PURPLE OR GRAY polo or button up shirt (long or short sleeve)

WOMEN: PURPLE OR GRAY bottom, PURPLE OR GRAY color top (or mix of both) with sleeves, black shoes. (No nylons...too hot!)

*This attire policy is subject to change, based on a pending committee's recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Communications/Phone Numbers/Addresses/E-mail

During the year, it can be important for an Officer, Board member, or other choir member to contact the choir or individual members thereof. Therefore names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for every member are requested, and will be posted on the choir info webpage. The *Registration Form* is available for this purpose. If you prefer to not have your information posted for choir members, please notify our web master, *R.L. Smith* (rl@rlsmithonline.com).

Also, please inform the choir's **clerk** if any of your personal information changes during the year. The information is not/nor should it be used for personal solicitations. This information will not be sold or distributed to outside sources.

Volunteer Opportunities

Although not mandatory, every choir member is urged offer to help our choir continue to be successful by volunteering in some way, as their skills and schedule allow. The choir is always in need of volunteers for a variety of activities including: photocopying; setting up sound equipment; public relations; fundraising; etc. Please speak with a Board member about what your interests are and how you would like to help to make *JVOI* successful this year!

The Organization, Officers, and Board of Directors

The Joyful Voices of Inspiration, Inc. is a non-profit organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in September 1999. The organization was granted status as a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Corporation by the Internal Revenue Service in 2004. The Bylaws of the organization define the roles and responsibilities of Members, Directors, Officers, the Board of Directors and appointed committees. Copies of the Bylaws are available by asking any Director or Officer. The Choir members elect Board Members for two-year terms at each Annual Meeting. Terms are staggered so that Board Members rotate on a regular basis.

The Directors voted into office by the membership at the Fall 2010 Annual Meeting are as follows:

Board of Directors:

1. *Elly Pendergast (Fall '11)*
2. *Tonia Barlow (Fall '11)*
3. *Mary Jo Haggerty (Fall '12)*
4. *Don Creed (Fall '12)*
5. *Marcy Rosenberg (Fall '12)*
6. *Carolina Chacin (Fall '12)*
7. *Richard Levy (Fall '12)*

The Directors are charged with electing the Officers, and the Officers are named by the Directors following the Annual Meeting.

The Officers selected by the Directors in the fall of 2010:

1. *President: R.L. Smith (Fall '12)*
2. *Treasurer: Alfa Zimmerman, (Fall '12)*
3. *Clerk: **OPEN** [Alisa Surenskia had to resign; she went back to school], (Fall '12)*