

Membership Handbook

Sounds of Stow Chorus & Orchestra

Barbara Jones, Artistic Director

barbjonz@me.com

(978) 562-2620

Website: www.soundsofstow.org

Email: soundsofstow@gmail.com

Phone: 978-707-9887 (general inquiries)

Mail: Sounds of Stow, PO Box 303, Stow, MA 01775

Follow us on Facebook

Rehearsals: First Parish Church, 353 Great Rd, Stow MA (corner of routes 117 & 620)

Current season details are at back of this handbook

(Revised March 2017)

The Sounds of Stow Chorus and Orchestra, a non-profit organization, evolved from a group of people wishing to sing at the town of Stow's annual Springfest event in the 1970's. It has grown from that modest beginning to now provide ambitious choral, orchestral, chamber, ensemble, solo, and other music performances for the entire region.

The organization receives partial funding from the Fieldstone Foundation through a grant to Stow's Cultural Council, as well as funding in part from the Massachusetts Cultural Council as administered by the local cultural councils of Stow, Bolton, Hudson, and Acton-Boxborough. The organization

We are a volunteer SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) group that currently draws its members from over 20 towns in central and eastern Massachusetts. The chorus is open to anyone who can match pitch, learn the music, and contribute to the friendly, supportive atmosphere we strive to maintain; auditions are not required. Principles of good singing and musicianship are realized through weekly rehearsals that are challenging and fun.

Barbara Jones, Artistic Director, a graduate of Wells College and Brown University, has directed the Sounds of Stow Chorus and Orchestra since 1979. She studied choral conducting at Westminster Choir College under Frauke Hassemann, Joseph Flummerfelt, Helmut Rilling and others. Among numerous large choral works she has presented over the years was the first Boston performance in more than a century of the Grand Mass in E-flat by Amy Beach. This performance was acclaimed by the Boston Globe and has been released on CD by Albany Records. Barbara also teaches piano in Stow.

Pauline Oliver, Accompanist, is a pianist, harpsichordist, organist, choral director, singer, and teacher who has served as our weekly accompanist since 2009. She is currently the Music Director and Organist at First Parish in Wayland. She has served as accompanist for several choruses in the area, including Concord Chorus, Master Singers of Lexington, and Harvard Pro Musica. Most recently she was chorusmaster and piano/vocal coach for the Boston Lyric Opera. Polly maintains a piano/vocal studio in her home in Concord.

REHEARSALS

The chorus rehearses Monday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall of the First Parish Church in Stow Center (353 Great Road, Stow; corner of routes 117 and 62). There are also two ***Saturday*** rehearsals prior to concert date, with the orchestra. Come prepared to take part in an engaging, productive rehearsal: always have a pencil handy to mark your music as suggested by the director, and a water bottle is recommended. If you must miss a rehearsal, ***please let your section leader know*** so he or she can let you know what you missed, and because we care about how each member of our community is faring! Choristers are encouraged to wear name badges during rehearsal to promote congeniality within the group. PLEASE SEE LAST PAGES OF THIS HANDBOOK FOR SPECIAL REHEARSAL SCHEDULES FOR CURRENT SEASON.

PERFORMANCES

We perform three concerts a year. Fall (November) and Winter (March) concerts are performed on a Sunday at the Hale Middle School Auditorium in Stow, a proscenium theater with stadium seating, at 55 Hartley Road. We perform with a full orchestra and in formal concert dress. For Fall & Winter, the format is typically, but not always, a composition performed by the orchestra without chorus, then intermission followed by the choral piece. There is a reception for members and audience after the concert in the school. The Spring concert (May) is a lighter, more informal event held at First Parish Church, during the Town of Stow's Springfest Weekend.

Dress Guidelines for Performances

Formal dress is expected for Fall and Winter concerts:

Men: Black suit, white shirt, dark, conservative necktie; black shoes & socks.

Women: All black; long sleeves or three-quarter sleeves; ankle-length skirt or dress, or black blouse and slacks; black shoes and stockings.

Spring Concert: dress is more informal and colorful. Details will be discussed prior to concert.

Please refrain from overly conspicuous flashy jewelry, and ANY perfume or scent of any kind. Many singers are especially sensitive to scent as it affects their throat and breathing.

Music will be in black choral folders.

Members are asked to bring "finger food" for twenty people to Fall & Winter concerts for the reception afterwards.

Dues

Dues are set annually by the Board and are paid by members once for the entire year, whether you plan to participate in one, two, or all three of the concerts. Dues for **2016/17: \$50**

CONCERT FEES

In addition to the one-time Dues, a concert fee is charged for each performance you participate in. This fee covers the cost of the member's scores PLUS helps a little to defray other costs necessary to put on the concert, such as soloist's fees, rental of the performance and rehearsal space, etc. The concert fee must be paid before you take any scores with you after the first rehearsal for that concert. You will have the opportunity to pay dues & concert fee, and collect your scores, at several rehearsals at the beginning of each season. **2016/17: \$55 per concert**

Financial Assistance: Need-based scholarships and grants are available to those who wish to sing with us but require financial assistance. Grants are made in confidence, and we encourage those who need one to inquire. We do not want to turn away anyone from singing merely for lack of funds. Please direct inquiries to the chorus President (see Directory at end of this Handbook for contact information).

We offer half-price dues and fees to **currently-enrolled students**.

MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The business of running the chorus and putting on performances is accomplished by the participation of members who volunteer their time and efforts. ***Our annual budget to put on three concerts is approximately \$40,000.*** We discuss administrative and budget issues at open Board meetings approximately once a month. Meeting times and location are announced in rehearsal. ALL choristers are invited and encouraged to come to any meeting. We always benefit from fresh ideas and views. We need your help – please make an effort to attend a meeting and share your ideas, for “many hands make light work”! You’ll have fun, make new friends, and learn a lot about the chorus and orchestra.

Each year, we must raise funds to pay our costs, such as rental fees for the rehearsal and performance spaces, accompanist's weekly fees, soloists' fees, printing costs of program, graphic designer's fees, liability insurance (required), fees associated with the orchestral accompaniment, etc. Dues and concert fees only partially cover those costs. Expenses and income are discussed at Board meetings. ***All members are expected to help raise funds, especially by soliciting advertisements for the concert program, or making a personal donation in lieu thereof; and by selling tickets to the performances.***

FUNDRAISING

Advertisements: We sell advertisements to our program during the fall, prior to our November concert. These ads will also run in the Winter concert program. Forms for choristers to use when requesting merchants and service providers to purchase ads for the program are distributed in September by email and at rehearsal; one is at the end of this handbook for your convenience.

Donations: Some members prefer to make a donation in lieu of soliciting an ad in an amount equal to at least one advertisement. All donors are acknowledged by name in the program, either under our “Contributors” page or on the “Commemorative Gifts” page, should you wish to honor a loved one or celebrate a milestone with a gift to the Sounds of Stow. Donors may also contribute to the Ernest Goldman Legacy Fund. Ernest Goldman (1913-2014) was a co-founder of the chorus and its accompanist as well as a performer for several decades. Donations may be made via Paypal on the chorus website or by using the forms available at the sign- in table during rehearsals and in our concert programs.

Ticket sales: Each member is asked to pre-sell four tickets to the Fall and Winter concert. Four numbered tickets will be distributed to each member a few weeks before each concert. Members bring any money they receive from a ticket buyer at rehearsal. If the member is not able to sell any of the tickets, those unsold tickets must be returned to Beth Bennett, the chorus member who is in charge of ticket sales.

Silent Auction 2016

For the fourth consecutive year, Sounds of Stow will hold a Silent Auction during our November 2016 Concert. This is our largest fundraiser! Audience and SoS members are invited to view and to bid on items before the concert, during intermission, and during our post-concert reception.

The Chorus & Orchestra members are asked to donate or solicit items from area businesses, retailers, or arts organizations. Past items have included a Bose Wave radio, vacation home getaways, firewood, gift baskets, concert tickets, wine, jewelry, paintings, and gift certificates.

Susan Johnson, chorus member and Silent Auction chairperson, will provide more information at rehearsals.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

Each chorister is asked to join in the fun and excitement of putting on our concerts by signing up for a “job” so we can spread out the work fairly. A sign up sheet will be distributed at the beginning of the season. There are small tasks like bringing some refreshments to a Saturday rehearsal, posting some flyers in your town, purchasing flowers for soloists, etc. (you will be reimbursed, or you can designate it as a donation). Or, if you have talents like graphic design, stage management, web design, producing an E-newsletter, etc., there is a need for your help ! Ask any members of the board, or Barbara Jones (Director) or your section leader for further information.

DIRECTORY MARCH 2016

Artistic Director: Barbara Jones, barbjonz@me.com 978-562-2620

Assistant Artistic Director: Christina Kennedy, fiddler422015@gmail.com,
978-496-4783

Section Leaders:

Soprano: Martha Pfeiffer, 978-562-0302, pfeifferml@verizon.net

Alto: Nina Huber, 978-505-7317, nvhuber@comcast.net

Tenor: Bob Glorioso, 978-501-0447, rglorioso@me.com

Bass: David Gray, 978-562-6843, grayscale@earthlink.net

Board of Directors:

Officers:

President: Madge Evans (Alto) madgeevans@gmail.com 978-263-8093

Vice President: Susan Johnson (Alto) pete_suejohnson@verizon.net

Clerk: Robert Glorioso (Tenor) 978-501-0447, rglorioso@me.com

Treasurer: Liz Moseley (Alto) stowfarm@comcast.net

Directors: Barbara Jones, Christina Kennedy, Dorothy Bagley, Joyce Carpenter-Henderson, Heidrun Dickson, Miriam DiGirolamo, David Gray, Rick Lent, Nina Huber

Volunteer Coordinators:

General Membership & Member Communications (maintains group email lists and forwards group emails to all chorus members on behalf of Artistic Director & President): Christina Kennedy (Alto), fiddler422015@gmail.com;
978-496-4783

Advertisements, programs, donations: Martha Pfeiffer (Soprano)
pfeifferml@verizon.net, 978-562-0302 ;

Fundraising committee chair: Dorothy Bagley (Soprano) 978-562-4175,
dhb8788@comcast.net

Silent Auction chair: Susan Johnson (Alto), 978-440-8469, pete_suejohnson@verizon.net

Pre-Concert tickets and ticket sales: Beth Bennett (Soprano) bennettjb@verizon.net,
978-263-7153

Website: David Gray (Bass), 978-562-6843 grayscale@earthlink.net

DIRECTORY cont'd.

General Stage Manager (set up, strike stage for concerts): David Gray (see above)

Chorus Stage Mistress (Alto): Sarah Worrest

Handbook: Nina Huber (Alto), 978-505-7317, nvhuber@comcast.net

Publicity: Rick Lent (founder, MeetingForResults.com and Stow resident) 978- 580-4262; rickmlent@gmail.com

Box Office and reception: TBD

Outdoor Signage: Cindy Soule (Alto) csoule@verizon.net

Official Correspondence: Heidrun Dickson, (alto)
heidrun.dickson@me.com, 978-461-9371

Shuttle and Parking: Bob Glorioso (Tenor) 978-501-0447,
rglorioso@me.com

Collecting Dues and concert fees, beginning of initial rehearsals: ***volunteers needed (currently: Heidrun, Christina, Nina)***

Name badges: Dorothy Bagley (see above)

Refreshments coordinator: ***volunteer needed (Sarah Worrest?)***

eNewsletter: ***volunteer needed***

Grants writer: ***volunteer needed***

CURRENT SEASON

November (Fall) Concert: Mozart, Sinfonia for Winds and Orchestra (orchestra) *and* Hector Berlioz, Messe Solennelle (chorus & orchestra)

NOTE: special Alto rehearsal on **Monday Sept 19, 2016**: Altos ONLY meet at Barbara Jones' house for sectional. Address: 61 Sudbury Rd, Stow. ALL other parts, meet at church hall as usual.

Nov. 12, 2016, Saturday rehearsal w/ orchestra: 2 to 4:50* pm approx; Hale Middle School

Nov. 19, 2016, Saturday rehearsal w/ orchestra: 2 to 4:50* pm approx. Hale Middle School

CONCERT: Sunday **Nov. 20, 2016** concert call at 1 pm; concert begins 3 pm, Hale Middle School

* Due to soloist's schedule, we must start rehearsals on these days later than usual.

March (Winter) Concert: Mozart Sinfonia for violin and viola (orchestra) *and* Ola Gjeilo, Sunrise Mass; Morten Lauridsen, Lux Arterna (Chorus & orchestra)

March 11, 2017, Saturday rehearsal w/orchestra: 1 to 4 pm; Hale Middle School

March 18, 2017, Saturday rehearsal w/orchestra: 1 to 4 pm; Hale Middle School

March 19, 2017. **CONCERT:** Sunday concert call (be there) at 1 pm; concert begins 3 pm, hale Middle School

May (Spring) Concert for Stow Springfest 2017: Songs of Love, Lilt, and Laughter: A Celtic Fling for Springfest

May 13, 2017, Sat rehearsal 1 to 4, First Parish Church, Stow (only one Saturday rehearsal for Spring concert)

May 14, 2017 **CONCERT:** Sunday; call is at 1, concert at 4 pm

NOTE: SPECIAL SPRING 2017 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

Springfest 2017 and extra rehearsals for **special big BRITTEN Requiem** concert in Worcester on Nov. 11. The Britten requires extra rehearsals in addition to the usual fall rehearsals.

Monday March 20 : Review of yesterdays concert, Rehearse **Britten** by working on selection from Mozart Requiem, get scores for Springfest &/or Britten (\$55 @; bring checks). **Also: bring a Mozart Requiem score if you have one or can borrow** on from a library, church, etc. for this rehearsal only. SoS performed it in 1997)

Monday March 27: rehearse **Britten only**, with Britten score. Britten scores and Springfest scores available.

April 3 to May 8, Mondays: Rehearsals for **Springfest** Celtic Music **ONLY** (concert May 14)

May 13: Saturday rehearsal for Springfest

May 14: Sunday Concert, Springfest

May 15 to June 12, Mondays: Rehearsals for **Britten** Requiem

Special additional Britten rehearsals you should try to attend:

Wednesday May 31, 6:30-9:30 pm, sectionals, in Worcester. Details to follow. Mark your calendar. Car pooling to Worcester will be arranged.

June 3, Saturday, 10:00 am to 3:00 p.m., lunch included: special workshop/“retreat” presentation on the Britten, in Worcester. Details to follow. Mark your calendar. Car pooling will be arranged.

August 28: regular Monday rehearsals begin for Britten concert in Worcester Nov. 11