

Chorister Policies and Contract

Please read this contract carefully and then complete the questionnaire included in your acceptance email. This contract will be electronically signed through that form. **Note: Registration is not complete until your fee payment is received.**

Please inform NSCF of any changes to your contact information- especially email!

REHEARSAL DATES AND TIMES

The following is an overview of your time commitment to NSYC. A more detailed schedule will be available on line at www.nscf.ns.ca and sent out before each rehearsal. **Please mark the following dates on your calendar NOW:**

Date	Where	When
Friday, June 7, Saturday, June 8 & Sunday, June 9	Rehearsals – Halifax, NS - Dalhousie Arts Centre (Fri. & Sat.) and Maritime Conservatory (Sun.)	Friday 6:00 p.m. to Sunday 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 8 to Sunday, August 11	Rehearsals - Berwick United Church Camp (115 Main Street, Berwick)	Thursday @ 12:00 p.m. to Sunday @ 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 19 to Sunday, September 22	Sharon United Church - Tatamagouche	Thursday 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. Friday - Sunday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. each day
Saturday, September 21	Tatamagouche CONCERT	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 22	Tatamagouche CHURCH SERVICE New Glasgow CONCERT Halifax CONCERT	Morning (TBA) 2:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

***ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS POLICY – READ CAREFULLY**

A **high level of commitment** is required from singers if the objectives of the choir are to be maintained. Attendance at all sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts is **mandatory**. **If singers have to miss more than 6 hours of rehearsal time** due to conflicts they will be asked to give up their place to another chorister who can make the full commitment. **Please make the office aware of any possible conflicts immediately.**

Illness or other serious circumstances (e.g. death in the family): a member will be excused from his/her obligations. In these cases, **please call the choir manager** at the office immediately. (423-4688) In the case of illness a **doctor's certificate is required to be an excused absence.**

Other circumstances: **If a singer needs to request an absence or lateness to a rehearsal that was not known at the time of signing this contract, the choir manager must receive the request, in writing, as soon as possible or at least two weeks in advance** of the rehearsal in question. The request should be emailed to Ryan Henwood, at ryan@nscf.ca. The singer will be notified as to whether the lateness or absence has been excused by the committee. Please keep in mind it may be refused – these decisions will be done on a case by case basis.

Lateness: A singer is considered late if he/she is not seated and ready to sing by warm up. If you arrive late, please give your explanation to the choir manager at the first opportunity. You will be notified promptly as to whether your lateness has been excused. ***If a singer has 2 unexcused latenesses or any unexcused absence, their membership in the choir will be reviewed and may be discontinued, without refund of registration fees.**

Communication

It is **imperative** for you to keep us up to date with any address, telephone or **email** address changes. Most communication is done through **email**. Please contact us with any changes to your contact information to ensure that you do not miss any information.

Music Preparation

It is each singer's responsibility to arrive at rehearsals musically prepared. This means spending adequate practice time on each piece of music. If you need assistance finding somebody in your area to help you learn the music please contact the office and we will do our best to find somebody for you. Singers who demonstrate a lack of adequate preparation may be asked to re-audition for the conductors.

Music

Some of our music is rented, some is borrowed and some is owned by the NSCF library. Please treat all of it very carefully. Use only a soft lead pencil when marking parts; do not mark excessively and erase your markings before returning the music.

The NSCF office records who has which music number. **You are responsible for your music and will be billed for the cost of replacement if it is lost or damaged. If it is returned late, you will be billed a late fee. It is your responsibility to see that all selections are returned.** Please keep in mind that our ability to rent or borrow music depends on our record of returning it promptly and in good condition.

Concert Dress

Please do not wear scented products at rehearsal weekends and concerts. Concert dress is as follows:

Men: Black suit or tuxedo, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black socks, belt and shoes.
Women: Black dress (floor length – no sleeveless) or Blouse (3/4 to full-length sleeves only), Skirt (floor length)/nice dress pants (Skirt floor length only), black socks/stockings, black dress shoes. A silver sash will be provided by NSCF to complete your outfit.
Hair must be off your face.

The Nova Scotia Youth Choir is the province's representative choir to the country. It is **extremely** important that you look as professional as you sound. You have six months to find an appropriate outfit, so please be sure to do so. If you do not have some of these items and do not feel you have the funds to buy what you need, please speak to us so we can assist you in finding something to borrow.

Billeting

Singers are billeted during rehearsal weekends. Local singers are asked to provide **at least one billet placement for out of town singers during the rehearsal weekends for our June rehearsal.**

Behavior

The Nova Scotia Youth Choir, its staff and its volunteers are a team. In order for a team to operate comfortably, there is a high expectation of mutual respect for each other, for the music and for the rules. Each singer is not only responsible for learning the music but is also responsible for maintaining a high standard of rehearsal etiquette and keeping his/her musical instrument in the best possible shape. This requires choristers to get enough sleep, drink enough water, eat properly, refrain from excesses of alcohol and tobacco, and not abuse the voice by yelling.

Payment of fees

Fees should be sent by Friday, June 7th. Please contact the office if there is any financial issue and we can work it out. Post-dated cheques (up to three) are acceptable, with the first payment due June 7th – **please send all cheques at once by June 1st.** Failure to make payment arrangements by that date will indicate your lack of interest in continuing with the program. Please make cheques payable to the Nova Scotia Choral Federation. Fees include tuition, music loan, t-shirt, full room and board at camp and most meals on the final weekend.

Bursaries for NSYC singers are available from Halifax Camerata Singers. Also, Travel Bursary application and Louise Simons Scholarship Application are all on NSCF – NSYC website!