
Welcome! We are pleased you are with us!

Welcome to the Northwest Sound Men's Chorus "Sing, Sing, Sing!" program! We are proud to bring this program to Bellevue and the surrounding community to encourage a cappella singing for anybody who wants to give it a try. There is no cost for this program, but you should plan on investing some time working on the techniques suggested by our vocal professionals and learning the music. You may feel nervous at times – just remember that you are in a safe, supportive learning environment so don't worry about making a mistake or being embarrassed; it is part of the learning process.

The course will cover the foundation of healthy singing, finding your best range, proper vowel usage, tuning, how to sing in close harmony and finding the message of a song for a complete musical experience. You will learn three a cappella pieces that are yours to keep. It is recommended that you memorize the music if possible as that will raise your level of performance and engagement with your audience, but it is not required. Online and CD Learning tracks will be provided for all parts allowing you to experiment with the different harmony parts.

Nikki Blackmer and Don Rose are both very experienced vocal professionals and teachers and will be the instructors throughout the six weeks with occasional help from various chorus members. Most of the instruction will happen in a group environment, sometimes with the chorus, sometimes separate from the chorus. If you have a specific question, do not hesitate to ask after rehearsal or during a break.

All SSS participants are invited to perform on our holiday show, **December 3rd, at 6:00pm at Interlake High School in Bellevue.**

This packet contains your music and either a CD or instructions on how to access the learning tracks for the music you will be working on. This packet is yours to keep but you should be sure to bring it with you to each session along with a pencil for taking notes. Handouts will be given most weeks that will cover the material being presented. Some people find it useful to bring small audio recorders to record themselves.

If you are unable to make a session or have questions, be sure to let Don Ferguson (don.ferguson1@comcast.net, 206-229-7464) or John Ludeman (johnludeman@hotmail.com, 425-445-0719) know.

RISER ETIQUETTE: There are a few things that are important when entering and exiting the risers: Please stand at the side of the risers and wait until you are asked to join the chorus. If you must exit the risers, please do so between songs or when there is a break. Talking on the risers should be kept to a minimum and focus should be maintained on the person at front unless told otherwise. If you have a question, please wait until the person in front of the chorus asks for questions. This keeps singers focused with the least amount of distractions.

The "Sing, Sing, Sing!" program officially ends at the 8:30pm break. The chorus will continue to rehearse after the 8:30pm break until 10:00pm. You are welcome to quietly

listen from the chairs or if you have the appropriate level of experience, join the chorus on the risers if you want some extra chorus exposure. There will be times when individuals who are not qualified for certain songs will be asked to listen from the chairs rather than be on the risers. This is particularly true of our contest music. If you do decide to stay, please refrain from talking or creating distractions for the chorus.

Thanks again for joining us as part of this program. We look forward to making this a positive experience that helps provide you with useful information for furthering your singing career!

Don Ferguson, Vice President of Chapter Development

