

June 2022

Hello Regina and area singers,

The Regina Symphony Orchestra is starting a choir, and all are welcome to come and sing! There are two divisions: The RSO Chorus is an un-auditioned mass community choir of up to 120 singers, and the RSO Chamber Choir is an auditioned choir of between 24 and 40 choristers aimed at recruiting experienced singers who want to sing challenging repertoire in a smaller group setting. **All of the information regarding voice placements and auditions are in the linked document entitled "RSO Chorus Voice Placement/Audition Information Package".**

I have also included attachments of the rehearsal schedules for both the RSO Chamber Choir and the RSO Chorus. Please note that these schedules *may* be subject to change in the fall, but at the current time, this information is correct. **Information regarding the attendance policy, concert attire, and choir fees may be found in the attached schedules.**

If you are an enthusiastic choral singer—even if you're not confident in your music reading abilities—please consider signing up for a voice placement for the RSO Chorus! The purpose of the voice placements is to give me the opportunity to hear you sing so I can place you in the correct section for your voice. There are lots of online resources for Brahms' Requiem; feel free to use any resources you find online to help you prepare the two excerpts. All singers who complete a voice placement with me will be granted a spot in the RSO Chorus.

If you are an experienced choral singer who is seeking opportunities to sing more challenging repertoire in a smaller group setting, please consider auditioning for the RSO Chamber Choir. Singers who are accepted into the RSO Chamber Choir are expected to be more independent in their learning of the repertoire, as this is a more fast-paced environment. While not all singers who audition will be guaranteed a spot in the RSO Chamber Choir, all who audition will be granted a spot in the RSO Chorus, so if you're on the fence, audition!

Below are three important links: 1) A Google Form for RSO Chorus, 2) a Google Form for RSO Chamber Choir, and 3) a live Google Sheets appointment sign-up sheet. Again, please read all of the information in the linked information package. The links below can also be found with instructions in the linked information package.

- [Google Form for RSO Chorus](#)
- [Google Form for RSO Chamber Choir](#)
- [Google Sheets Appointment Sign-Up Sheet](#)

Please feel free to forward this email and all of the included attachments to anyone who you think might be interesting in singing with this group in the fall. As always, if you have any questions about auditions/voice placements, please don't hesitate to ask.

I'm looking forward to singing with you in the fall!

All the best,

Dorianna Holowachuk (She/her)

B.Mus.Ed., B.Mus., M.Mus.

dholowachuk@reginasymphony.com

RSO CHORUS SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE

Chorus Director

Dorianna Holowachuk
dholowachuk@reginasymphony.com

Chorus Administration

Mart-Mari Swanevelder
mswanevelder@reginasymphony.com

Rehearsal Accompanist

Lee Stubbe

For all inquiries related to repertoire, please email Dorianna. For any other inquiries, please email Mart-Mari and cc' Dorianna. Thank you!

Please note: For every rehearsal, you will need a water bottle, a pencil with an eraser, your music, and a mask. During in-person rehearsals, all personnel (singers, conductor, rehearsal accompanist) will wear a mask that covers both the mouth and the nose until further notice. You can either wear a disposable mask (these are easier to breathe in), a cloth mask, or a singer's mask (these are constructed to prevent the cloth on the front of the mask from going into your mouth during inhalation). The purchase of a singer's mask is recommended but not required, but if you do purchase one, please ensure it is **black**. In the event that we need to be masked for performances, our masks need to match our concert dress. This masking policy is in place to ensure the safety of everyone involved in this choir. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

- Weekly RSO Chorus rehearsals will take place on Sunday afternoons from 3:00pm-5:00pm.
- Location for ALL Sunday afternoon rehearsals: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 - 1909 Ottawa Street, Regina, SK, S4P 1P7
- Choir Fees: \$100.00, \$75.00 for RSO Chamber Choir members, \$60.00 for students with valid student ID. Choir fees are due by Wednesday, January 4, 2023 (score pick-up night). Fees may be paid online through the RSO website.
- Choristers may only withdraw during the first two-week period of each term and receive a refund minus administration fees (\$25.00) There will be no refunds of any fees after this first two-week period. Extenuating circumstances (like family crisis) are an acceptable reason to withdraw from the choir mid-semester, but no refund of fees will be issued. **The deadline to withdraw from the RSO Chorus this term and receive a partial refund is Friday, January 20, 2022.**
- COVID-19 Vaccinations: All members of the RSO Chorus are expected to be fully vaccinated against COVID- 19.

RSO CHORUS SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2023

- Wednesday, January 4: Score pick-up night
 - 4:00pm-7:00pm
 - Location: St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral (1861 McIntyre Street, Regina, SK, S4P 2R2)
 - This is a come-and-go event; come pick up your music and meet your fellow choristers!
- Sunday, January 8: 3:00pm-5:00pm; Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Sunday, January 15: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, January 22: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, January 29: 3:00pm-5:00pm

FEBRUARY 2023

- Sunday, February 5: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, February 12: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, February 19: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, February 26: 3:00pm-5:00pm

MARCH 2023

- Sunday, March 5: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, March 12: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, March 19: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, March 26: 3:00pm-5:00pm

APRIL 2023

- Sunday, April 2: 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Sunday, April 9: No rehearsal (*Easter Sunday*)

RSO CHORUS SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE

CONCERT: BRAHMS' REQUIEM WITH THE RSO

Mandatory rehearsals with the Regina Symphony Orchestra

- Location: Conexus Arts Centre – Shumiatcher Room (200 Lakeshore Drive, Regina, SK, S4S 7L3)
 - Tuesday, April 11
 - Call time: 7:00pm
 - Rehearsal: 7:30pm–10:00pm
 - Wednesday, April 12
 - Call time: 7:00pm
 - Rehearsal: 7:30pm–10:00pm
 - Thursday, April 13
 - Call time: 7:00pm call
 - Rehearsal: 7:30pm–10:00pm
 - Friday, April 14
 - Call time: 7:00pm
 - Rehearsal: 7:30pm–10:00pm
 - Saturday, April 15: DRESS REHEARSAL
 - Location: Conexus Arts Centre – Stage (200 Lakeshore Drive, Regina, SK, S4S 7L3)
 - Call time: 9:30am
 - Rehearsal: 10:00am-12:30pm
 - Saturday, April 15, 2023: CONCERT
 - Call time: 6:45pm
 - Concert: 7:30pm–10:00pm

Note: the RSO Chorus may not be needed at all of the rehearsals with the orchestra. Until further notice, please mark these dates in your calendar. More information to follow in early 2023.



“Without craftsmanship, inspiration is a mere reed shaken in the wind.”

– Johannes Brahms

BASIC CHOIR RULES

Being on-time to choir means arriving at least five minutes before rehearsal starts, getting your music out and in order, and bringing a pencil, mask, and water bottle. Although you are expected to attend all rehearsals, **the maximum number of absences allowed is 2 per semester**. Exception: if you test positive for COVID-19, any absences incurred during your isolation period will not count towards your maximum absences allowed per semester. If you are unable to sing, are non-contagious, and negative for COVID-19, you are expected to be in rehearsal to practice mentally and take notes. If you are ill and contagious, please stay home to protect your fellow choristers. If you must be absent, please notify Dorianna Holowachuk by email in advance, or if your absence is unexpected, email after rehearsal. Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals with the Regina Symphony Orchestra in order to participate in the concerts. Other than these rules, our choir culture is focused on building community, sharing camaraderie, supporting each other, and working hard as a team to sing and perform beautiful music together!

CONCERT ATTIRE

Our concert attire is intentionally gender neutral. In other words, you are free to choose any garments that you would like to wear, so long as your chosen garments are all-black formal attire. The goal when wearing concert dress is to look polished and professional. Remember, the audience is paying to hear you sing; your chosen attire should be appropriately formal for such an occasion.

BOTTOMS

- Black dress pants with black socks/stockings. Yoga pants, leggings, and black denim are NOT dress pants.
- Black skirt (past the knee or longer) with black opaque tights.

TOPS

- Long-sleeved black collared dress shirt with a black tie or a black bow tie. Suit jacket/blazer optional.
- Long-sleeved black blouse (3/4 length is the shortest possible sleeve for a blouse). Suit jacket/blazer optional.
- Black long-sleeved turtleneck. Suit jacket/blazer optional.
- Black blazer with black shell/blouse underneath.
- Black dress cardigan with black shell/blouse underneath.

ONE-PIECE OPTIONS

- Formal black dress/gown, past the knee or longer with black opaque tights. Dress/gown either has sleeves 3/4 length or longer, OR a cardigan/blazer/bolero is worn over the dress/gown to cover the arms or shoulders.
- Formal floor-length black jumpsuit, with black socks/stockings. Jumpsuit either has sleeves 3/4 length or longer, OR a cardigan/blazer/bolero is worn over the jumpsuit to cover the arms or shoulders.

FOOTWEAR

- Black dress shoes. No runners, sandals, or casual footwear.
- If wearing shoes with a heel, please refrain from wearing anything higher than 2-3 inches. High heels encourage the possibility of locking your knees, and wearing very high heels for a performance where you stand stationary for a prolonged period of time is more likely to result in fainting.

HAIR AND JEWELLERY

- Long hair should be pinned or tied back so it is off of the face using small black hair accessories.
- Any jewellery worn should be discreet and colourless.