****

**VOCE SINGER INVITATION**

Dear Potential VOCE Member,

We are excited about reinvigorating VOCE (Voice of Choral Excellence) in the Indianapolis, Indiana area! In order to make the experience as positive as possible, the leadership has developed some guidelines. We wish to clarify our mission, purpose, process, calendar of rehearsal and performances in this document. After reading this, if you feel you would like to be a part of VOCE, please contact Brenda Iacocca to confirm your interest in joining. Thank you!

***VOCE MISSION STATEMENT:***

**VOCE brings performance virtuosity and variety in choral arts to audiences throughout Indiana.**

**ABOUT VOCE:**

The small ensemble of 16 - 24 auditioned singers, represents some of the finest vocal talent in Indiana. While some members are professional musicians, others have music as an avocation, including physicians, attorneys, educators, business professionals and students.

* Our programs strive to feature a wide variety of styles including: choral standards, Broadway & Pop selections, sacred and spiritual music, multicultural choral music spanning Latin, Italian, Spanish, German, French, Russian, Bulgarian and English.
* We specialize in a variety of musical styles and repertoire, from Renaissance motets to contemporary American music.
* We collaborate with other organizations such as: New World Youth Orchestra, Indianapolis Arts Chorale, Fishers Chamber Players, Circle City Ringers and DePauw University Chamber Singers and Composer Dan Forrest.
* Unique programs are created for each specific location and audience.
* Full ensemble, octets, quartets and solo work are part of our offerings.

**Membership Details:**

As a small ensemble, **VOCE** has a unique sound that we have found is desirable in the Indianapolis area. We have also discovered that singers who sing together more regularly can maintain that unique sound more easily, learn repertoire quicker and achieve better more consistent, quality performances. Therefore, we have several singer requirements to make our goals possible.

1) All performances must have 4-part, SATB, SSAA or TTBB balanced voices.

2) Singers are asked to make a commitment for 1 full year to VOCE to insure consistency and quality of our product. You are expected to attend 90% of rehearsals and concerts. Should you be unable to sing for a scheduled concert, VOCE will need 1 month notice to find a substitute or you may recommend a suitable person.

3) Illness and availability are facts of life and as a choir we anticipate these will happen. Should there be a conflict or illness, please notify Brenda as soon as possible so we can find a suitable substitute. We are also looking for capable musicians who would be able to step into a part as your substitute. If you know any singers who may want to be “on call”, we would appreciate you passing their name on to us!

4) We ask singers to make VOCE performances a priority in their schedule. A rehearsal and performance calendar will be published in advance of the season.

5) Singers are expected to rehearse and learn notes/rhythms/parts at home and come to rehearsals prepared to put parts together, rather than learning those during rehearsals. Sectional rehearsals will help clarify difficult passages but you are responsible for knowing your part in advance. Occasionally, pieces will be sight read in rehearsals and members need to feel comfortable sight reading.

6) Music quality and timbre is an important part of the VOCE sound. After attending a rehearsal, the new members will be given time to reflect on the group and the current VOCE group will evaluate the voice and fit of new singers. Our Audition Committee and Director will assist in helping to create the best sound.

7) We will be requiring a refundable music fee **deposit of $50** from each singer for the use of the music. This is to insure, that music is returned or replaced when lost, for the VOCE library. When you leave the group and your music is returned, you will receive **$25 back** from your deposit. Checks are payable to: “VOCE “, with music deposit written in the memo line or use our website to make credit card payments.

8) Rehearsals will be held on the **2nd & 4th Sunday of each month from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at St.** **Christopher’s Episcopal Church 1402 West Main Street Carmel, IN 46032** in the Chapel area. You are required to attend both rehearsals. Please notify Brenda Iacocca, President (317-946-2056) or Attendance Secretary Carolyn Tinsley: ([ctinsley@indy.rr.com/317-371-7802](mailto:ctinsley@indy.rr.com/317-371-7802)) if you will not be at a rehearsal. If you have agreed to attend but become ill, you must notify Brenda @ 317-946-2056 as soon as possible.

9) We have previously operated as a self-led group and have invited different conductors when necessary. We feel comfortable working with different musicians and hope to eventually have a paid conductor. We have just appointed **Robert Bolyard as our Director for 2018-2020** season. We also expect to use accompanist/directors whenever possible or retired or college conductors when necessary. We have several capable members who also lead rehearsals and programs.

10) VOCE members are serious musicians but love to have social time too. In order to make our rehearsals efficient, we will make our break time, our social time. We have a social committee to help plan extended social events.

11) Each VOCE member is needed as a singer and committee person. Each member is asked to volunteer for an organizational job. Your skills should best reflect the job your wish to accept. Again, we are a small member driven group and have no formal director at this time. To run smoothly, we need your help! The VOCE Board of Directors guides our organizational structure. We plan on evolving as the group grows.

12) As a VOCE member will receive documents, calendars and details via email. We will be using email to communicate as much as possible. Your response is important to us but should you choose not to respond to an email, we will assume you agree to the information in the email. VOCE also has a website: [www.voceindy.org](http://www.voceindy.org), Facebook Page: **VOCE Indianapolis,** Instagram **and YOUTUBE Channel – VOCE Indianapolis.**

13) Finally, we appreciate your interest in VOCE and hope to have you onboard. Please feel free to discuss any part of this document with current members of the governing body. Questions are always welcomed!

Brenda Iacocca,

VOCE President and Managing Director,

Artistic and Audition Committee

[bmiacocca@gmail.com](mailto:bmiacocca@gmail.com)

317-946-2056

****