

2025 Performance of Handel's *Messiah* by Cary Community Choir

Choir Information Sheet

Venue: Westwood Baptist Church, 200 Westhigh St., Cary, NC 27513

Masks: If you want to wear a mask for health reasons during the performance it should be solid black.

Tuesday Rehearsals: 11/11, 11/18, 12/2, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Please give yourself time to check-in and be in your seat 15 minutes before the rehearsals start. You will be seated in pews for the first three rehearsals and in the loft for the dress rehearsal and performance. There will be signs to indicate the vocal part sections.

Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, 12/6, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. Please be in your seat by 9:15 am as rehearsal will begin promptly at 9:30 am. There is no need to wear concert attire at the dress rehearsal. That said, the rehearsal is open to the public and you might not want to wear your jammies.

Rehearsal Attendance: Expectations are that singers will attend each rehearsal, if at all possible. If you must miss a rehearsal, let us know. Missing more than one rehearsal without notice may cause your slot to be given to a singer on the waiting list.

Performance: Sunday, 12/7, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm. Call time for warm-up for singers in the sanctuary is 5:45 pm. At the conclusion of warm-up at 6:30 pm, singers will congregate in the fellowship hall where water will be available. Singers will need to seat themselves in the choir loft by 7:15. Coats may be left in the fellowship hall, but purses should be brought into the choir loft and stored under the chairs.

Concert Attire: Do not wear perfume, cologne, after shave, shiny jewelry or holiday accessories

Men: Dark suit, plain white dress shirt, solid color necktie. Please no holiday themes or bright colors.

Women: Solid black skirts, dresses, or pants, solid black top with at least three quarter length sleeves, black shoes. If skirt hems are above the knee, please wear solid black tights.

Musical Scores: You are welcome to bring your own *Messiah* score. If you plan to buy a new score, we are using the Watkins-Shaw edition which is available on-line at Amazon for around \$10.

Since page numbers for the various *Messiah* editions may not be the same, we will have a sheet with page numbers for the following editions available at check-in: Watkins-Shaw, Van Camp and Schirmer's. This sheet may help when the director indicates a page number from his edition which differs from yours.

Folder and Clips: We ask that you put your music in a black folder for the performance. The choir will sing the following choruses – Part One: Numbers 4, 7, 9, 12, 17, and 21. Part Two: Numbers 44, 53 and 53a. Please clip or flag the appropriate pages of music. Clips are available at the check-in desk along with a demo score for you to review. You can also ask your section leader for help.

If you're interested in changing the binding on your score, the following resources may be helpful. (This info was correct as of 9/1/2025 and is subject to change)

Spiral Binding and Black Folder information

Spiral Binding is available at OfficeMax/Office Depot. It is approximately \$5 for just a spiral binding, about \$10 for spiral binding including black plastic covers front and back. Note the plastic covers are flexible, not stiff. Allow at least 24 hours to get it done.

Black folders: From JW Pepper: www.jwpepper.com

Basic: <https://www.jwpepper.com/model-802-choral-folder-10747515-484680/p>

with Strings (Model 802) to hold your score, no spiral binding needed, but does work with the spiral binding. \$16.50, about \$26 total with shipping and taxes.

The Deluxe black folder <https://www.jwpepper.com/the-black-folder-10376487-292447/p> has a bottom strap and a hand strap for \$26 (model 1000D), so about \$38.50 with shipping and taxes. The hand strap really does help hold the folder, and the bottom strap across is helpful to hold the folder open just right.

Practice: Singers are encouraged to practice their *Messiah* parts in-between rehearsals. One helpful on-line practice site is www.cyberbass.com.

Donations: As you can imagine, there are significant expenses associated with providing this Cary tradition year after year. We receive less than 10% of our annual budget from arts grants and depend on private donations for the rest. We want to encourage all of our singers to contribute as you are able to defray the cost of our concert. \$30 to \$40 per singer would help us meet our budget, but any amount is helpful. To contribute online, please visit our [website](#). A donation table set up at each rehearsal and the performance. Any donation in the amount of \$50 and above will be listed in both the paper and online versions of the program. The deadline for program recognition is November 29th.

Publicity: Please post and send to friends and family the advertising flyer that will be sent to you shortly via email.

Cary Community Choir Board Members 2025:

President: Elizabeth Booker; Vice President: Nancy Canterbury; Treasurer: Jim Bridges; Secretary: Nancy Canterbury

Board Members: Gene Block, Denise Buckner, Christi Cook, Jim Heddell, Bob Gutjahr, Daniel Tsui, Chelsea Wilson

Marketing: Regina Kaiser; Fundraising: Nancy Canterbury; Webmaster: Al Booker

New Board Members Needed for 2026:

We are looking for people to serve as board members next year, beginning in April 2026 so please join us. You do not need to sing in the choir to be on the board. You may email us at carycommunitychoirnc@gmail.com to volunteer or to ask questions.

For more information about Cary Community Choir, you may follow us on:

Facebook @carycommunitychoirnc

Instagram @carycommunitychoirnc

Twitter @carychoir

Website www.carycommunitychoir.org