

2026 Performance of Handel's Messiah by the Cary Community Choir
Choir Information Green 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: 11/10, 11/17, 12/1, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. **Do not wear perfume, cologne, scented deodorant or after shave.** Give yourself time to check-in and be in your seat **AT LEAST** 15 minutes before the Tuesday rehearsals start. You will be seated in the pews for the first three rehearsals and in the loft for the Dress Rehearsal and Performance. There will be signs to direct you to the correct vocal part sections. **NO FOOD** in the Sanctuary, and **ONLY** water in a sealed container.

NEW THIS YEAR: SECTION LEADERS: Soprano: Francesca Balestrieri. Alto: Candace Blackley. Tenor: Chuck McCullen. Bass: Rock Angier. **Feel free to ask these Leaders any questions, like score markings, clarification on pronunciation, etc.**

DURING REHEARSALS: Silence all phones. Keep all conversations to the absolute **MINIMUM** between songs and during sectional work. Every sound you make keeps others (and yourself) from hearing what the conductor says.

Cookies and Nibbles Social: Tuesday, 12/1, 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall: Bring one to two dozen Cookies or Holiday Treats (home-made or store-bought), or a fruit, veggie or cheese and crackers tray, and socialize with your fellow Singers before our last Rehearsal. Your Board will provide drinks, cups and napkins. All leftovers can be bagged so you can take home the extra goodies. **NO FOOD** in the Sanctuary.

Dress Rehearsal: **NEW! AFTERNOON!** Saturday, 12/5, **12:30 pm – 3:30 pm.** **Do not wear perfume, cologne, scented deodorant or after shave.** Please be in your seat by **12:15 pm** as rehearsal will begin promptly at **12:30 pm.** No need to wear concert attire at the Dress Rehearsal. This rehearsal is open to the public (you might not want to wear your jammies.)

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

Performance: Sunday, 12/6, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm. ***Call time for warm-up for Singers in the Sanctuary is 5:45 pm.***

At the end of warm-up at 6:30 pm, singers will move to the Fellowship Hall where water will be available. Singers: be seated 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. ***Silence your phone and do not touch it.*** Freeze at the end of songs and movements until released by the conductor. Know when to sit and stand. Hold your music and look up and out at the conductor to see his body communication, so the audience can see your face as much as possible.

Parking for Performance: Peace Presbyterian, 1777 W. Chatham St, Cary, and Devoted City Church, 590 Westhigh St., Cary. Maps to these churches will be available at Check-In and on the Website. Car-pooling is highly suggested.

Concert Attire: **Do NOT wear perfume, cologne, scented deodorant or after shave, shiny jewelry, sparkles, glitter or holiday accessories.**

Men: Dark or black suit or tuxedo, plain white dress shirt, solid color necktie, black socks, black shoes. ***Please no holiday themed ties, shiny accessories or bright colors.***

Women: Solid black skirts, dresses, or pants, solid black top with **at least three-quarter** length sleeves, black socks or stockings, black shoes, **no shiny accessories, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, headbands, glitter or sparkles.** If skirt hems are above the knee, please wear solid black tights.

Musical Scores: ***Please bring your own Messiah score.*** If you plan to buy a new score, we use the Watkins-Shaw edition which is available on-line at Amazon for around \$11, about \$20 total with shipping and tax.

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 conductor indicates a page number from his edition which differs from yours. This sheet is on the Website as well.

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.

Spiral Binding and Black Folder information: If you're interested in changing your score binding to a spiral lay flat, the following resources may be helpful. (This information was correct as of 8/4/2026 and is subject to change):

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 at OfficeMax/Office Depot.

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

Basic Folder: <https://www.jwpepper.com/model-802-choral-folder-10747515-484680/p> with Strings (Model 802) no spiral binding needed, but does work with the spiral binding, \$16.50, about \$26.20 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), about \$38.50 with shipping and taxes.

Practice: Singers are encouraged to practice their Messiah parts in-between rehearsals. Some helpful on-line practice sites are www.cyberbass.com and <https://rehearsaltracks.net/free/>.

Donations: As you can imagine, there are significant expenses associated with providing this Cary tradition year after year. The professional orchestra and soloists are a large cost, over \$10,000, and Westwood Church is now charging us for the use of their facility. 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 help defray the cost of our concert. \$30 to \$40 per singer would greatly help us meet our budget, but any amount is helpful.

To contribute online, please visit our website <https://carycommunitychoir.org/contribute>. A donation table will be set up at each rehearsal and the performance. Any donation \$50 and above will be listed in both the paper and online versions of the program. The deadline for donation program recognition is November 27th.

Cary Community Choir Board Members 2026

President: Nancy Canterbury; Treasurer: Jim Bridges; Secretary: Denise Buckner

Board Members: Donna Abrams, Rock Angier, Al Booker, Elizabeth Booker, Christi Cook, Regina Kaiser, Chelsea Wilson, Max Ziff

Conductor: Pepper Choplin

Marketing, Social Media: Regina Kaiser; Fundraising: Nancy Canterbury; Webmaster: Max Ziff

New Board Members Needed for 2026:

We are looking for people to serve as board members this year, so please join us. You do not need to sing in the choir to be on the Board. We are particularly looking for people with expertise in Marketing and Social Media, Finance, Fundraising, and Volunteer Coordination. 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