



Torrance Civic Chorale Syllabus

City of Torrance, CA

Spring, 2024 (Jan. 8-May 3)

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About the Chorale

The Chorale has provided the South Bay with exceptional choral music, instruction and cultural enhancements since 1961. The auditioned Chorale is sponsored by the Cultural Services Division of the Community Services Department at the City of Torrance.

Since its humble beginnings in 1961, the Torrance Civic Chorale has grown to as large as 90 and 100 singers. Since the hiatus due to COVID19 in 2020-21, the choir typically has 35-45 members. Members come from the surrounding South Bay communities and encompass all age groups from young adults to people with over 50 years' vocal music experience. The Chorale represents professions in aerospace, banking and investments, education, parenting, military, medical, governmental social services, professional antique dealers, students, retirees, and church employees. The choristers' diversities span Japan, China, Chile, England, the Philippines, Spain, Korea, Scandinavia, France, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Greece, Scotland, Middle East and Central America.

The Chorale is under the sponsorship of the Cultural Services Division in the Community Services Department of the City of Torrance. Orchestras, bands, instrumental ensembles, and individual musicians are engaged to perform with the Chorale as needed. The Chorale is under the direction of Dr. Edward Trimis and it's longtime accompanist, [Diana Brownson](#). The group's musical repertoire varies widely from the classics to ancient ballads, pop tunes and Broadway musicals to newly composed masterworks. In Fall 2018, the Chorale premiered Daniel Newman-Lessler's latest composition, E-mu-nah.

The full choir performs three major concerts per year, two in December and one in April, all held at the beautiful James R. Armstrong Theater in Torrance. Additional events include somewhat smaller groups performing for community outreach and holiday/social occasions around the South Bay, such as the Torrance Memorial Holiday Festival and the City of Torrance's 45th anniversary Sister City event with Kashiwa, Japan. Their international choral travel has spanned Europe, Japan,

Taiwan and Hong Kong, and Canada and in November, 2018 performed the works of Randol Bass at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Ages: 18 and over, waivers for Age 16 and 17

Type: City/Community Choir

Total Enrollment: 30-95+

Demographics: Members come from Torrance and surrounding communities and work in many different professions in the Los Angeles area including medicine, education, entertainment, and more.

Course Description

The Torrance Civic Chorale is an auditioned group that rehearses one night a week (2 hours), with formal performances at the end of each term and additional performances as scheduled. There is an additional or two Saturday rehearsals as well. The expectation is choir members will learn their parts to planned literature outside of the weekly rehearsals. Sectionals will be scheduled as needed. There is a music deposit required and concert dress requirements.

Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsals are Mondays, 7:30-9:30 pm, at the George Nakano Theatre in Torrance. Students are expected to complete additional work outside of class per week rehearsing/learning music and completing course assignments.

Course Objectives/Goals

We are here to learn about healthy vocal techniques, aspects of performance, and music theory. Our objective is to work toward a common goal of fun, productive rehearsals, quality performances, and develop valuable knowledge of music and musicianship, as well as an appreciation of all genres of choral music. There will be opportunities for solos and leadership. Our goal is to work hard and work together.

Course Outline

This year we will sing for the following: Concerts, Special Events/Programs, and more as scheduled.

Course Materials

Music will be provided. There is a \$25 deposit which will be returned when members leave the group. There are concert dress requirements and some fees. These will be minimal. Other required materials are PENCILS, good attitudes, and plenty of water is recommended for good vocal health.

Grading/Assessment Standards

Students will be graded on two things: participation and performances. Because this is a city class, grades are pass/fail.

Expectations

Every member is expected to contribute, not complicate. I always seek a collaborative and supportive approach but note the director is the final decision-maker in any performing group. **At times, some music will need to be memorized. At times, chorale members may be expected to perform without chairs on the stage, though accommodations will always be made if needed.** Thanks for joining!

Use of Website and E-mail

The TCC Website will continue to be a major tool for communication and resources. Please go to the “members-only” section for updates and downloads. The TCC website is located at www.torrancecivicchorale.net **E-mail** will also be used extensively. Please check your e-mail regularly. **Social Media** including Facebook and Twitter will also be utilized as a communication and promotion tool.

Director’s Profile

I have been the Artistic Director/Conductor of the Torrance Civic Chorale since January, 2022. I have taught jazz, show, and concert choirs at the middle school, high school, and college levels including Berendo Middle School, Huntington Park High School, Verdugo Hills High School, San Francisco State University, Los Angeles Trade-Tech College, and Cal State Los Angeles. I have also worked as an adjunct professor teaching jazz ensembles at Pasadena City College.

Performance Notes/Rehearsal Notes

Performance is a critical part of any musical ensemble. Performances are not optional. When a member misses a performance, they are not only letting down the rest of the group (the team), but they are also letting down themselves. Not to mention the concern with not using the funding to best use what it takes to put a group in front of an audience including rental fees, wardrobe, travel costs, etc. That said, sometimes emergencies and conflicts do arise. If a member needs to miss any rehearsal or performance, they must communicate the conflict/absence with the director ASAP.

Support at Performances

We hope families can attend performances as often as possible! Please realize that there is sometimes an admission cost for the audience.

Music

Music for Spring, 2024 (Torrance Civic Chorale) will focus on music featured in Walt Disney films, television programs, musicals, and theme parks. Music for TCC Jazz Singers will also include songs for Spring jazz festivals.

TCC Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

Fall, 2024

Date	Time	Event	Event/Venue	Notes
Mon., Jan. 8	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., Jan. 22	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., Feb. 5	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., Feb. 12	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., Feb. 19	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., Feb. 26	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., March 4	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., March 11	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., March 18	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., March 25	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., April 1	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Sat., April 6	7 am	Oceanside Jazz Festival	Mira Costa College	TCC Jazz Singers Only
Mon., April 8	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Sat., April 13 or 20	9 am	Workshop	TBA	
Mon., April 15	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Fri., April 19	12 pm	Fullerton Jazz Festival	Fullerton College	TCC Jazz Singers Only
Mon., April 22	7:30 pm	Rehearsal	Nakano Theater	
Mon., April 29	6:00 pm	Dress/Tech Rehearsal	Armstrong Theater	
Fri., May 3	5:45 pm	Final Rehearsal	Armstrong Theater	
Fri., May 3	7:30 pm	Concert	Armstrong Theater	

**Additional dates may be added. SATURDAY WORKSHOP, DATE TBA (tent. 4/13 or 4/20)*

TCC Jazz Singers rehearse on the same dates, 6:30-7:25 pm. Same performances for the TCC Jazz Singers with some additional performances (indicated above).

While this schedule is accurate at this time, it is subject to change as needed.

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