

HOLY TRINITY MUSIC MINISTRY HANDBOOK: APPENDIX A
ENSEMBLE MUSIC AND HEALTH COVENANTS
2021-2022

Dr. Chloë Stodt, Music Director: 913-895-0682 (office)/ cstodt@htlenexa.org
Ms. Sarah Warner, Folk Choir Director: 913-563-7979/ holytrinityfolkchoir@gmail.com
Dr. Helena Vasconcellos, Bells of Joy Director: 816-500-5769/ hmvasconcellos@gmail.com

PREREQUISITES

- High school age & above
- Vocal ability to match pitch; Instrumental proficiency appropriate to the repertoire
- Availability for weekly rehearsals & scheduled Masses
- Music reading ability is helpful but not required
- Meet with ensemble director before attending first-time rehearsal

EXPECTATIONS

The global COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Holy Trinity Music Ministry seeks music ministers who are fully vaccinated. The Archdiocesan attorney has advised (May 14, 2021) that it is legal (for parish ministry leaders) to ask volunteers and members of the public if they are vaccinated. The EEOC has also advised (May 28, 2021) that employers may (if they so choose) legally require COVID-19 vaccination for employees. Other attorneys advise (May 20, 2021) that asking for proof of COVID-19 vaccination is also permissible. Additionally, as Catholics, we seek to observe Canon Law Article 223, ¶ 1, which directs Catholics to “take into account the common good of the Church, the rights of others, and their own duties toward others.” We take seriously the human rights to life and health, and our duty to protect the life and health of others.

Aspiring music ministers who demonstrate a medical condition preventing them from taking the COVID-19 vaccine will be reasonably accommodated (ADA) insofar as the requirements of their music ministry permit (e.g. asked to wear a mask, observe physical distancing, and practice healthy hand hygiene [CDC Update, May 13, 2021]).

Because no currently available COVID-19 vaccine is 100% effective, pandemic protocols (e.g., wearing masks, distancing, seating arrangements, sanitizing, etc.) may be reinstated for all music ministers at any time if conditions warrant, or at the discretion of the music or ensemble director. Even so, music ministry will not be risk-free during this time. Music ministers agree to release Holy Trinity Church and its employees and representatives from all liability and/or claims should a Covid-19 exposure or illness traceably occur as a result of their participation.

Music ministers having ANY COVID-19 RELATED SYMPTOMS (fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, diarrhea; Delta Variant symptoms of headache, sore throat, runny nose, fever, stomach pain, loss of appetite, vomiting, nausea, joint pain, hearing loss) are expected to notify the ensemble or music director and stay home. Any music minister seeking to attend any rehearsal or Mass with any of these symptoms will immediately be sent home, and encouraged to pursue COVID-19 testing.

EXPECTATIONS (continued)

- Respecting the Ministry
 - a) Read, know, and apply the information contained in the parish Handbook for Music Ministers (revised annually; posted on music webpage linked below)

- Respecting Rehearsals and Masses
 - a) Prioritize rehearsals and Masses in personal calendars as soon as the schedule is given
 - b) Arrive on time (weekly & pre-Mass practices)
 - c) **Practice blocks limited to 30" (vocal)/45" (instruments) with 10"-15" breaks between**
 - d) Once rehearsal begins, give full attention to the ensemble conductor
 - e) Personally communicate any absences to the ensemble conductor in advance if possible

- Respecting Fellow Choir/Ensemble Members
 - a) Sick? Stay home
 - b) Avoid wearing personal fragrances in choir (allergens for some)
 - c) Avoid engaging section-mates in conversation during rehearsal/Mass
 - d) Know your part (individual part practices are available - just ask)

- Respecting the Conductor's Position
 - a) Attendance =_{Def} willingness to accept the musical leadership of the appointed conductor
 - b) Avoid commenting contrarily re: the conductor's instructions
 - c) Address any disagreements with the ensemble conductor or parish music director personally, outside of rehearsal time

- Respecting the Music Library
 - a) Remember your folder/anthem number
 - b) Keep track of anthem calendar
 - c) (Chorale) Turn in each anthem when finished singing (after Mass/at next rehearsal)

<http://www.htlenexa.org/holytrinity-music>