Getting the Most from Your GALA Choruses Membership
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The first key to getting value from your GALA membership is to stay current on the events and programs offered. GALA regularly sends newsletters and eBlasts to our mailing list to communicate information about upcoming events and programs. Be sure to notify Member Services when your chorus leadership changes so that we can keep the information flowing to you.
To join our email list go to the GALA Choruses web site [home page] and use the “Join Our Mailing List” box. Follow the link and “like” our Facebook page.
Join the GALA Discussion Groups

The GALA Google Groups are one of the most valuable aspects of membership. These listserv discussion boards allow open dialogue between peers within GALA; use them to obtain instant feedback on a particular topic or problem from your chorus colleagues and to share your unique expertise.

There are discussion groups for artistic directors, chorus managers (of various sized choruses) youth choruses, composers/arrangers and transgender groups.

You can join the discussion groups using links available on the GALA web site or by emailing memberservices@galachoruses.org.
The GALA 411 advisors are experienced chorus professionals available to consult with your chorus about artistic, management and/or board issues. The current team is artistic advisor Joe Nadeau, chorus manager advisor Jeff Heine, board development advisor Eve Campbell and youth chorus advisor Susan Haugh.

The GALA 411 advisors are available to member choruses for mentoring on a variety of topics. The consultations are free unless the advisor needs to come in person, in which case the chorus is asked to cover travel and lodging expenses. Details on the GALA 411 program and how to contact the advisors and request their services are all included on the GALA web site.
Festival is the signature event of GALA Choruses. Festival 2020 will be held in Minneapolis on July 4-8, 2020 with more than 150 performing groups and 6,500 singers expected! Look on the GALA web site for a complete description of the performance opportunities and tools to help your chorus prepare for the festival experience.

Attend Festival

Stone Arch Bridge

Minneapolis Convention Center

Photos courtesy of Meet Minneapolis
Leadership symposia are held annually (other than Festival years), providing an opportunity for networking, education, inspiration, singing and fun! The 2018 symposium will be held February 16-18 in Orlando. Watch the web site for program details and the opening of registration and housing, as well as downloadable resources from workshops held in the past.
Explore the Online Resource Center

The **Resource Center** is the heart of the GALA web site. It contains an enormous collection of background information and sample documents on every aspect of chorus management, with whole sections dedicated to Artistic Directors, Chorus Managers, Board Members, Singers, Youth, and Trans* people. Check out the samples below!
Chorus Managers

This section provides content and information to assist with the day-to-day, short-term and long-term management of your Chorus.

Are you just starting out and looking for help? Are you having some difficulties with fundraising or ticket sales? Look for help on these topics in this section of the Resource Center.

Starting a GALA Chorus
Reviews the kinds of questions you will need to consider when starting a chorus.

Membership
Provides resources regarding member orientation, member handbooks, attendance policies, software products available for managing choruses, member dues policies and alumni relations.

Finance
Contains examples of charts of accounts and classes for setting up accounting software, budgets and related budget comparison reports. Includes information on IRS 990 requirements, employee vs independent contractor questions and insurance considerations.

Fund Development
Includes a wealth of information on case statements, development plans, individual donors, grants, corporate sponsorships and more.

Marketing
Contains information on creating a marketing plan with specific examples of graphics and artwork, audience development, eMarketing, social media and advertising.

Outreach and Tours
Provides stories and testimonials, example documents and policies regarding tours and guidelines for outreach to schools.

Ask the Chorus Management 411 Advisor
Jeff Helne serves as the GALA Choruses 411 Advisor for Chorus Managers. Jeff has been Executive Director of Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus since 2009, and served two seasons on the Board of Directors as Chair of Resource Development.

Personnel

One of the Board's primary responsibilities is oversight of personnel matters. It is also an area where there seems to be frequent difficulties. Many of these difficulties can be avoided through clear and consistent communications -having an accurate job description that is clearly explained, having a clear organization chart so responsibilities and authority are transparent and the completion of regular staff evaluations so there are no misunderstandings about whether or not expectations are being met. The materials in this section provide information and document examples to help you handle personnel matters in a professional and respectful manner.

- Job Descriptions:
- Staff Evaluations:
- Contract Examples:
- Employee vs. Independent Contractor:
- Organization Chart:
- Hiring Tools:
Programming

One of the most important roles of an Artistic Director is to design concert programming. Every conductor has their own method for choosing repertoire but here are some questions to ask yourself in the process:

- Am I programming a single concert or creating a series of concerts that connect over a season?
- Will my singers be excited about this concert topic?
- Is the concert theme marketable?
- Does my chorus have the capacity to pull it off?
- Is the theme compelling artistically: enjoyable to hear, technically engaging?

These questions (from a Strategy Screen) and more are included the programming resources below. Also check out the Resource section on Repertoire.

Programming Tips

GALA conductors offer their wisdom and philosophy on programming concerts.

**Programming Tips from Bob Mensel**, Portland Gay Men's Chorus

Programming and conducting resources from GALA veteran, **Tim Seelig**

Guidelines for **programming a GALA Festival** set from conductors Sue Coffee and Jane Ramseyer Miller. Many of these ideas are relevant in programming any concert.
Member choruses post job openings in their choruses on the GALA Choruses web site.
Our Staff Is At Your Service

info@galachoruses.org

Robin Godfrey
Executive Director
executivedirector@galachoruses.org

Jane Ramseyer Miller
Artistic Director
AD@galachoruses.org

Sue Bell
Member Services
memberservices@galachoruses.org

Paul Kruse
Communications
communications@galachoruses.org

Joann Usher
Development
development@galachoruses.org
GALA Choruses is pleased to celebrate our member choruses’ milestone anniversaries. Your anniversary will be posted on our social media outlets, and a board or staff director will come to your celebration concert and present a small gift.
Participate in the Member Chorus Operations Survey

GALA will be conducting a member chorus operations survey in 2017. Topics to be covered include compensation, operations, board practices, management practices and performance and audience measures. All member choruses will be asked to participate in the survey. The results of the survey will be free to those who participate.
Mission
Empowering LGBT Choruses as we change our world through song.

Vision
A world where all voices are free.

Core Values
• We are CATALYSTS. We provide enthusiasm, resources and tools to inspire our member choruses to use the power of music to create social change.
• We are HARMONIZERS. We are diverse people who employ the power of song with respect and understanding. We bring our communities together to experience musical excellence, collaboration, cooperation, acceptance, transparency, and opportunities for all.
• We are LISTENERS. We listen to our members, our colleagues, and each other in order to understand the issues, define our roles, and serve the common welfare of our movement.
• We are LEADERS. We offer strategic direction to the movement we serve. We work effectively with partners around the world who seek to achieve complimentary goals. We strengthen our association by nurturing effective leadership and ensuring robust, sustainable financial resources.