

Member Handbook

2016/2017 Season



201 N. Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607

www.saginawchoralsociety.com

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About the SCS

Mission Statement

The mission of Saginaw Choral Society is to provide meaningful and creative musical experiences that reflect the talent of our singers and the diversity of our audience.

Staff & Board Members

Staff profiles

Tamara Grefe, *Executive Director*

tamara@saginawchoralsociety.com

Tamara Grefe has served as Executive Director for the Choral Society since 2003, after serving as its pianist for twenty four years. She held similar positions with Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra as Executive Director from 2000-2003 and as symphony pianist for many years prior. Under her leadership, the Choral Society continues to expand its role within the arts and cultural community as an advocate for the joy and fulfillment that singing together brings to all people.

Jeremiah Kraniak, *Music Director/Conductor*

Jeremiah@saginawchoralsociety.com

Jeremiah holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Music Education from Saginaw Valley State University and is currently working on his Masters of Music in choral conducting at Central Michigan University. Prior to studying choral music, Mr. Kraniak spent six years studying solo and orchestral flute. As a tenor, he studied voice under the guidance of Dr. Julie Meyer. He has been featured as a soloist with the Saginaw Choral Society under the batons of Mr. Robert Sabourin and Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout. Under the artistic direction of Robert Nordling, Jeremiah is an active participant in the annual Baroque on Beaver music festival on Beaver Island where he acts as the assistant choral conductor. He has been featured in theatrical productions through the SVSU Department of Theatre as a pit musician and as an actor/singer. Most recently, he served as the orchestra conductor for the SVSU Department of Theatre's production of How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying. In the spring of 2015, Jeremiah made the decision to resign from teaching to pursue conducting as a career. In addition to the SCS, he serves as the tenor choral scholar at St. John's Episcopal Church under the music ministry of Mr. Kevin Simons.

Catherine McMichael, *Pianist*

Catherine McMichael is a pianist, composer, arranger, teacher and clinician. Catherine has a B.M. in piano performance and M.M. in chamber music from the University of Michigan. She has taught applied piano at the University of Michigan-Flint, and is presently the pianist for the Bijou

Orchestra in Bay City and the River Raisin Ragtime Revue in Ann Arbor. She also directs Bells On High, the handbell choir at First United Methodist Church, Saginaw.

Amy Simons, *Communications Coordinator*

amy@saginawchoralsociety.com

Amy started her career in music education as a beginning and high school band director. It was here she learned that focused information and trustworthy leadership are the seeds of a successful program. Amy nurtured her interest in communications and technology by studying web and graphic design. She left education and entered the nonprofit sector as the Communications and Volunteer Coordinator for St. John's Episcopal Church in Saginaw, MI. Today, she continues to apply these skills for the Saginaw Choral Society and is excited to help create a culture of singing in the Saginaw area.

Kathleen Scott, *Office Assistant*

officemanager@saginawchoralsociety.com

Kathleen Scott has served the Choral Society in several diverse roles over the years. Starting out as a singer, she quickly became involved as a behind-the-scenes production volunteer and then on staff in dual roles as Office Manager and Production Manager. Kathleen currently is the Balance Concierge Coordinator at Nexteer, and maintains a part-time position as Office Coordinator with the Choral Society.

Board Members

Nancy Stevenson, *President* - nancy@saginawchamber.org

Rev. James T. Williams, *Vice-President* - jhallstead11@yahoo.com

Tricia Koch Wahr, *Secretary* - koch.tm@gmail.com

Alex Henriquez, *Treasurer* - alex.henriquez23@gmail.com

Karen Stiffler, *Past-President* - kstiffler@stmarysofmichigan.org

Steve Anderson - yevgheney@msn.com

Thomas Braley - tbraley2@yahoo.com

Janie Gugino - janebarham@chartermi.net

Robert Hart - robert_hart@ml.com

Dave Lyman - dlyman.88@outlook.com

Jim Smerdon - gymbough23@yahoo.com

Dave Tagget - dtagget@charter.net

Gabriella Hoffman - gabriella@saginawchamber.org

Jill Vary - jvary@juno.com

SCS in the Community

Social Media Links

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/saginawchoralsociety/>
- Twitter - <https://www.twitter.com/saginawchoir/>

Outreach Highlights

- Choral Palooza - A summer day-camp done in collaboration with Major Chords for Minors
- Concert collaboration with Saginaw Valley State University
- Concert collaboration with Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy
- Tree-lighting at Holidays in the Heart of the City
- Jazz on Jefferson, entertainment & food festival on Jefferson Avenue.

FAQ

Auditions

Dates

- pre-season auditions are held in May and August
- mid-season auditions will be held the week prior to beginning rehearsals for next concert or by appointment.

Prior to the Audition

interested singers will need to:

- submit a completed application to the SCS office via mail, fax, email, or by submission of the electronic form and a SCS office staff member will contact singers to confirm the next available audition dates.
- OR bring a completed application with you to a convenient open audition.
- if an accompanist is needed please deliver sheet music to the SCS office one week prior to your audition.

The Audition

Auditions, conducted by the artistic director/conductor (and may also include section leaders) will consist of the following

- one solo, any style, with accompaniment
- range evaluation

Following the Audition

Auditioned singers can expect an acceptance/rejection letter from the conductor. Accepted singers

- will receive a new member folder which will include a membership handbook, music number, and scores
- will make a pro-rated membership contribution

Membership

Contributions

- \$125 - standard membership contribution
- \$75 - additional members from within the same household contribution
- \$50 - student & first time member contribution

Membership contributions should be paid prior to the start of the new season or prior to beginning rehearsals as a new member, whichever is first. Contributions may be made in installments.

- Payments can be made by check, credit card, or cash by contacting the SCS office or online via Member Planet. If paying by check please indicate "Member Contribution 16/17" in the memo line.
- All membership contributions are tax-deductible donations. Tax-deductible donation statements will be sent no later than January of the following calendar year.
- Student assistance is available. Interested singers please contact Jeremiah Kraniak.

Music & Folders

It is the responsibility of each member to return music, folders, or any other SCS property that has been issued. Missing or damaged items may result in replacement fees.

Member Planet

- All members will be granted access to the SCS Membership Database through Member Planet.
- It is the responsibility of each member to keep his/her information current and accurate, as this will be a primary source of communication.
- Questions regarding Member Planet should be directed to the communications director.
- An invitation email with profile instructions will be sent upon a successful audition.
(www.memberplanet.com)

Rehearsal & Concert Information

Weekly Rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals take place on Monday nights, during the performing season, from 7:15pm to 9:45pm at St. John's Episcopal Church: 123 N. Michigan Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602

Dress Rehearsal

Dress rehearsals will take place on the Friday prior to the concert at the concert venue unless otherwise noted

The majority of our main-stage season concerts take place at Temple Theatre in downtown Saginaw: 203 N. Washington Ave, Saginaw, MI 48607. Parking can be found adjacent to or behind the theatre. The theater can be accessed through the box office entrance to the left of the building or the backstage entrance.

Attendance Policy

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every rehearsal/event.
 - It is the responsibility of each section leader to take attendance for his/her section.
 - All attendance will be recorded in a master document.
 - **Singers who must miss a SCS rehearsal/event will notify the appropriate section leader** and the communications director via email prior to the rehearsal/event.
- Missed rehearsal
 - Singers should not miss more than two rehearsals per concert. Should a singer miss more than two rehearsals for a concert, he/she may not be eligible to sing that concert and must consult with the Music Director.
 - Any singer who misses more than one rehearsal per concert may not be eligible for any solo opportunities offered for that concert
 - Exceptions to the attendance policy are offered at the discretion of the conductor. All requests for exception must be made prior to the concert
- Dress rehearsal
 - Singers may not be absent for dress rehearsals
 - Any singer who misses a dress rehearsal may not be eligible to sing the corresponding concert and must consult with the Music Director.
- Tardiness
 - Professional behavior is expected for all SCS events. This includes being on time and prepared for all rehearsals. It is the responsibility of every member to ensure they make promptness a priority. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every rehearsal/event. Habitual tardiness will be addressed on an individual basis.
 - If a specific situation arises that requires a singer to be consistently late to rehearsal, he/she should consult the conductor.
- Concert
 - It is expected that members will participate in all concerts they have committed to.
 - Should a member need to miss a concert, he/she will notify the appropriate section leader, the communications director, and the conductor prior to the concert.

- Members must participate in a minimum of 2 of the 3 season concerts to be considered for solo opportunities.
- Concert Attire
 - The following is standard attire for all concerts (unless otherwise noted)
 - Additional pieces (i.e. Scarves, pocket squares, etc) will be distributed as needed.

Men	Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● White tuxedo shirt ● Black studs & cufflinks ● Black bowtie ● Black cummerbund ● Black tuxedo pants ● Black tuxedo jacket ● Black shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black floor-length dress OR ● Black pants ● Black top ● Black shoes (black stockings if open-toe) ● Jewelry is acceptable ● Hair kept off face

Membership Application



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Phone: _____

Shirt Size: S / M / L / XL / XXL
Anticipated Section: Soprano / Alto / Tenor / Bass

Are you a student? Y / N
School: _____
Major: _____

Briefly describe your previous choir experience.

Audition piece: _____

Will you need an SCS accompanist? Y/N

(If a SCS accompanist is required, please send a copy of the accompaniment one week prior to your audition date.)

How did you hear about the SCS?

Concert / Social Media / Referred by a friend (friend's name): _____

Other: _____

Thank you! Please submit this application to the SCS office by mail, fax, or email and we will contact you with audition dates and time.