

CIRCA 1600 WELCOME LETTER
Monday, January 29, 2024

WELCOME (OR WELCOME BACK) TO CIRCA 1600! We are looking forward to being back in action making some great music together. You will find a lot of important information in this welcome letter. Please be sure to save it for future reference and check all the dates with our calendar.

REPERTOIRE: Spring Returns: Two Tall Tales: In this rollicking show, we present two very different dramas, set to very different music. Our opening half features the ‘Festino nella sera del Giovedì grasso avanti cena’ (‘A little party on the evening of Fat Thursday before supper’), by the Bolognese composer Adriano Banchieri (1568–1634). The piece features a rich cast of characters performing a variety of songs ranging from the absurd to the sublime. After intermission, we’ll take on ‘The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore’, by Gian Carlo Menotti (1911–2007). Subtitled ‘The Three Sundays of a Poet’, the piece is a parable of the phases of an artist’s life and of the difficulties in being truly heard. Original artwork by Julia Loopstra will complement the music.

OUR SCHEDULE/ATTENDANCE POLICY: We rehearse every Monday from 7:15pm-9:15pm at **Penngrove Social Fireman’s Club**. Please clear these in your calendar NOW. You must inform us of anticipated absences through the commitment form by next week – **February 5, 2024**

As Sonoma Bach emerges from the Covid pandemic, we want to address attendance as an ensemble. Last season, we had a significant number of last minute absences and want to make some improvement in this area for the coming season. While we understand that things do come up, we are asking that you carefully go over the schedule and decide if you can fully commit to the choir this season.

Regular attendance is a fundamental aspect of learning our music and achieving our goals as an ensemble. It is through consistent participation that members can fully immerse themselves in the learning process, understand the nuances of the pieces, and contribute to the ensemble sound to the very best of their ability.

Our goals as a chorus extend beyond just performing. We aim to create a community of passionate individuals who appreciate the beauty of music and the joy of singing together. We strive to continuously improve our musical skills, broaden our repertoire, and deliver performances that can touch people's hearts. Achieving these goals requires dedication, hard work, and a shared commitment to our chorus's vision.

Regular Rehearsals: 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15

Fall Retreat (counts as two rehearsals):
Saturday, March 23, 9AM-4PM, at Cinzia’s House

Two Tall Tales Production Schedule:

Wednesday, April 24th 7-10PM – Schroeder Hall

Thursday, April 25th 7-10PM – Schroeder Hall

Friday, April 26th 7-10PM – TBD

Saturday, April 27th 6PM Call, 8PM Concert

Sunday, April 28th 1PM Call, 3PM Concert

COMMITMENT FORM: Everyone needs to fill out a Commitment Form, which will be sent out digitally after rehearsal tonight and is attached to this welcome letter as well. You can fill out the commitment form using [THIS LINK](#).

CONCERT GARB:

Black and Grey dress clothes. Closed toe shoes.

TO REACH US:

Music Director - Bob Worth: 707-799-8266; rwworth@yahoo.com

Executive Director - Dianna Morgan: 707-347-9491; dianna@sonomabach.org

Associate Director - Amanda McFadden: amanda@sonomabach.org

TO REACH OTHERS IN THE GROUP: Within a few weeks, we will distribute a roster.

Please use it to contact your section steward for questions, colleagues for impromptu sectionals, to arrange carpools, etc. The more of a community this group becomes, the better our music will sound.

RETREAT: As per the schedule above, our fall choir retreat is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 9AM-4PM, at Cinzia's house. This will be an extremely important day for us in our journey through this great music, and we all need to be there, wide awake and raring to go.

PENCILS: Please be sure to have a sharp pencil at all times during rehearsals for this group.

SCORES: *The score fee for this semester is \$15.* Please pay by cash or by check payable to Sonoma Bach.

CHOIR RESOURCE PAGE: On our website we have a page that has all of your paperwork and materials for the semester. Please visit: <https://www.sonomabach.org/choir-resources.html> to stay up to date!