

# **NORTH CAROLINA MASTER CHORALE**

## **Design for Accessibility**

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is the policy of the North Carolina Master Chorale (NCMC) to encourage the participation of the entire community in all its concerns and, therefore, to strive to make participation possible for everyone.

The North Carolina Master Chorale has a 70-year history as an organization comprised of singers who prepare and perform multiple concerts each season. Current volunteer membership is approximately 170 singers. Auditions are open to all singers regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, disability, impairment or any other identifying characteristic. Every effort is made to assist the participation of all qualified singers.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SINGERS**

Singers pay dues, however, scholarships are provided to waive the dues and cover the cost of scores when necessary.

1. Rehearsal venues are accessible to all singers, including public walkways, stairwells, elevators, restrooms, parking spaces, and signage.
2. In performances, NCMC does the following:
  - Chairs are provided for those unable to stand and accommodating chairs are provided if needed.
  - Positioning in the choir is suited to an individual's needs, i.e., on the end of a row or on the floor.
  - Braille scores are available for the sight-impaired.
  - The non-sighted have a fellow singer's assistance when needed.
  - Wheelchairs are accommodated.
  - Singers are requested not to wear scents that might affect allergic reactions among colleagues.
  - Singers are allowed additional time to move from rehearsal spaces to the concert stage.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCES**

The North Carolina Master Chorale actively welcomes all audience members and shall make every effort to accommodate their special requirements.

Since NCMC performs in rented venues, each site is checked for architectural accessibility:

1. Easily accessible public walkways, reserved handicap parking spaces, ramps, adequate entry doors in width and height.
2. Signage of adequate size and arrows to direct traffic flow.
3. Accessible restrooms - at least one for each gender.
4. Removable floor barriers, for example, flower pots, stands, etc.
5. Space for wheelchairs.
6. Availability of bus routes close to venue, when possible.

Additionally, we provide:

1. Ushers and/or door openers, as necessary.
2. Ticket table of appropriate height.

3. Reserved seating, i.e., front row for visually or hearing impaired; space for a wheelchair beside friends; and accommodation of specific requests by audience.
4. Programs include full libretto in English translation when sung in another language.
5. Recordings of program notes when requested.
6. Large print programs, 14-18 point font size.
7. A reader, if requested.

## **ACCOMMODATION FOR BOARD MEMBERS OF NCMC**

In the Board Development Retreat (May 1996), a presentation was made regarding 504 regulations. Minutes were taped for a former Board member who was visually challenged.

## **MARKETING**

With respect to marketing of concerts, currently we provide:

1. Voice mail messages giving complete information regarding concert details: Location, times, ticket sales, other arrangements, etc.
2. Differential pricing for students, senior citizens, and military personnel.
3. Announce in ticket enclosures that, with advance notice, we will accommodate special needs.

In printed season materials, we use universally recognized symbols. We announce the intended accommodation of special needs, with proper advance notice, on the organization's website.

## **ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Access Advisory Committee exists to:

1. Assist in evaluating the accessibility of NCMC's facilities, programs and services.
2. Make recommendations for needed improvements.
3. Serve as an access resource and review mechanism, which may include consultation on new programs, policies and services.
4. Assist in developing outreach to people in the community who are older or have disabilities or other needs.

The following persons served on the NCMC Access Advisory Committee for 2012-2016. All are aware of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and also with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Titles II and III as revised in 2010:

Tim Champion  
Leslie Heavey  
Dan Harrell

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