



For the Sheer JOY of Singing!

## New Member Orientation Guide

*Revised 15-JUN-2014*

### Welcome

As a new or prospective member of the Eugene Gleemen, we welcome you to our organization and hope you have a long and enjoyable future ahead with our organization. Take a minute to review the information in this guide, we trust it will answer most questions you have and if not, ask one of us at rehearsal!

At the end is a Membership Application Form - please complete this and bring with you to a future rehearsal so that we can learn more about you and make sure we know how to contact you via phone and email.

### About the Eugene Gleemen

Founded in 1926, the Eugene Gleemen are the longest continuously performing choral group on the West Coast. Originally conceived by a group of men from local service clubs and the Chamber of Commerce, the Gleemen uphold a proud tradition of musical excellence, community outreach, and support for junior choral groups..

Through the years, the Eugene Gleemen have performed hundreds of times at local, state, national and international events. Some notable performances are:

- 1932 Rotary International Conference (Seattle)
- 1937 Benefit Concert for Willamette Valley Flood Relief (Eugene)
- 1939 World Exposition (San Francisco)
- 1947 Rotary International Conference (San Francisco)
- 1952 Kiwanis International Conference (Seattle)
- 1954 Rotary International Conference (Seattle)
- 1957 Inauguration of Oregon Governor Robert D. Holmes (Salem)
- 1957 Lions International Conference (San Francisco)
- 1959 Inauguration of Oregon Governor Mark Hatfield (Salem)
- 1959 Oregon Centennial Exposition (Portland)
- 1966 Kiwanis International Conference (Portland)
- 2009 Oregon Sesquicentennial Celebration (Salem)

The Gleemen occasionally tour to international locations to perform, and have visited Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, and Germany.

The Eugene Gleemen are a non-profit organization, a partner in the Oregon Cultural Trust, and are governed by a Board of nine Directors serving cascading three-year terms. Funding for operations of the organization are primarily driven by ticket sales, membership fees, corporate and individual donations, and grants.

## Membership

Membership in the Eugene Gleemen is \$80/year, payable in two \$40 installments at the beginning of each concert rehearsal 'season'. Members can pay their entire yearly fee in one installment. To encourage new members to "try before they buy", payment for the first concert season is optional.

In return for membership fees, the Eugene Gleemen provide free sheet music for concerts, free online rehearsal tracks (nominal fee for rehearsal CDs), the opportunity to perform many times throughout the year at different venues, and most importantly, lots and lots of fun!

There are no membership age requirements, we welcome all interested male singers from high school age and older.

The phrase "Once a Gleeman, always a Gleeman" is a motto we live by! Since foundation, we have had a number of members sing continuously for over 50 years (current record 59 years), have had Music Directors and Accompanists with 20+ years supporting the Gleemen, and have many examples of multi-generational membership with brothers, uncles, cousins, fathers, grandfathers and sons singing together (though not usually at the same time!)

## Auditions and Rehearsals

No auditions are required, nor any previous choral experience. Members do not need to be able to read music, though this is a plus. Many of our members learn to read music for the first time while rehearsing and performing with the organization.

Most of our music is written for male choirs, and arranged for "TTBB" voices: First and Second Tenor, Baritone, and Bass. We sit in rehearsal by section (voice), so that each member of the section learns to blend with others singing the same part. If you are unsure of the correct section for your vocal range, you can ask the choral director for help, or just sit with the members from each section until you find what matches you best.

Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings at the Grace Chapel of the First Christian Church in Eugene. The church is located at 1166 Oak St, Eugene - Grace Chapel is the small building to

the south (left) of the main church. Rehearsals start at 7 PM and usually conclude around 9 PM, with a break in the middle for coffee and cookies.

There are two entrances to Grace Chapel, a double-door located on the north side of the building, accessible from the covered walkway to the main church, and on the south side in the alley leading to the rear parking lot. From the south entrance, turn immediately right and enter through the wooden door to the rehearsal room.

First Christian Church is an interfaith emergency shelter and warming center, and we often have visitors inadvertently enter our rehearsal space looking for those services. To prevent disruption to rehearsal, we lock the north door leading to the main church once rehearsal commences, and ask anyone arriving late to rehearsal to enter only through the south door.

Parking for many lots near the church are controlled by Diamond Parking, who aggressively enforce signed parking rules. To avoid fines, please try and park in a free area (street, church lot) and observe all posted parking signs.

## Performances

The Eugene Gleemen perform four main concerts each year:

- November: Fall Concert - which is often moved to December if Christmas-themed
- February: Valentine Sweethearts Ball
- May: Spring Concert
- July: Summer Concert - selections from the Spring Concert performed at the Lane County Fair

In addition to the above, the Gleemen are also very active with:

- Performances of the National Anthem at Eugene Emeralds Baseball games (2-3 times per season - may also include the Canadian National Anthem)
- Performances of the National Anthem at University of Oregon sporting events (ad-hoc)
- Eugene Celebration Parade - we run a float in the parade
- Christmas Caroling - 8 x performances per year in December at local retirement and assisted living facilities

We often have opportunities for solos in our concerts and performances, see the Music Director if you are interested.

We also do things like flash mob performances at local bars and breweries, performances at birthdays, weddings, and funerals, and much more.

The Eugene Gleemen have one commercial recording - "Concert Highlights of The Eugene Gleemen" (1957), appearances on "Guest Star Radio" in the 1960's - a weekly radio show to promote the sale of US Savings Bonds, and have performed with such notable composers as Jester Hairston.

If that's not enough, some of our members are regulars in the Eugene Opera chorus - there is always LOTS to do as a Eugene Gleeman.

## Dress Code

The Eugene Gleemen have three standard 'uniforms':

- **Formal Attire** - Black tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie and cummerbund, black socks, black shoes. This is the standard dress for Fall, Spring, and Valentines concerts
- **Semi-formal Attire** - Navy blazer, white shirt, burgundy-red tie, charcoal gray slacks, black belt, black socks, black shoes. This is the standard dress for outings such as a Rotary lunch
- **Casual Attire** - Eugene Gleemen lemon polo shirt with logo, khaki pants or shorts, brown shoes, socks. This is the standard summer uniform and used for performances at the County Fair, Eugene Celebration, National Anthems, etc

We occasionally have used tuxedos returned to the Gleemen by departing members which we make available at no charge. Most members purchase their own tuxedos which can be found for a reasonable price at local department and clothing stores, especially if you watch for sales

Red bow ties and cummerbunds, the burgundy red tie for the semi-formal attire, and the lemon Gleemen polo shirt with logo can all be purchased from the Gleemen directly at nominal charge.

Dress Rehearsals do not require you to wear concert performance attire - it is a special rehearsal to make sure we have all those little performance details right, like sound checks, riser order, entrances and exits, introductions, etc.

## Music

The Eugene Gleemen perform with sheet music for most concerts, which is provided free of charge for all members to rehearse. We have a large collection of music befitting an organization of our maturity, and replenish our collection frequently with newer and more challenging choral arrangements. Our concerts are 'themed' and it is not unusual to perform with a selection of pieces acquired by the Gleemen over a span of 60, 70 or 80 years.

All music is purchased by and remains the property of the Eugene Gleemen. We honor and enforce all applicable copyrights for the pieces performed. For this reason, we ask that you do not make copies of the music, and return all music at the end of each season. We expect that you will make notes in the music during rehearsals at the direction of the choral director, and that you make those notes in pencil and erase all markings before returning the music. Please do not use highlighters in your music.