

TUITION, TOUR & UNIFORMS

OFC: VALUE versus COSTS

Oregon Festival Choirs is a non-profit organization with activities funded through membership tuition fees, concert revenues, fund-raising projects, and contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and public agencies.

In many ways, the musical training choir members receive can be compared to the benefits of private music lessons. While rates of local teachers vary considerably, a 45 minute weekly music lesson by a teacher with good credentials would easily exceed \$1000 per year.

The total cost of OFC participation (including tuition/tour/season tickets/ uniform) for Allegro/Cantilena is about half of that amount, averaging \$15 per week for the school year. For Fiero/Lyric members, the total cost ranges from \$800 to \$1100 per year, depending on the tour component for that year.

Of course the difference is that in addition to weekly music lessons, each chorister gets performance and tour opportunities throughout the year and the chance to participate in a world-class international music festival. Add the social and character building benefits of OFC, and it becomes clear that choir membership is a very good investment.

Insuring access for every interested family is a high priority for OFC. Therefore, mechanisms to help families reduce these costs are always being explored and developed. **Scholarship aid is also available on a limited basis to assist qualifying families with choir program expenses.**

The following table is an overview of OFC expenses.

CHOIRS	TUITON	RETREAT	TOUR	UNIFORM	SEASON TICKET CAMPAIGN
LYRICA/ FIERO	\$400	\$20	Approx. \$200	\$50 (Includes t-shirt and formal uniform rental. Does not include black shoes and any asseccories)	Each family is responsible for selling a minimum of \$66 in Season Ticket materials. Individual concert ticket fee details TBA. 2009-2010 Season
EXIT 194/ ARIA	\$400	\$20	Approx. \$200	\$10 (Includes t-shirt. Singers purchase uniform. Details TBA.)	
ALLEGRO/ CANTILENA	\$325	N/A	Approx. \$75	\$50 (Includes t-shirt and formal uniform rental. Does not include black shoes and any asseccories)	

TUITION

Enrollment at OFC is for the season that begins in September and concludes with the final activity in late Spring/early Summer. Every chorister is expected to remain active and committed to the program for the entire season, which includes participation in tour. (*See **Tour Participation** earlier in this booklet.*) As with many choirs, OFC makes budgetary decisions according to enrollment numbers. For this reason, OFC cannot refund choir tuition for choristers who do not fulfill their season commitment.

Tuition is due at the time of registration. There are several options for payment:

- Pay in full by cash, check or credit card. (Make checks payable to **Oregon Festival Choirs** or **OFC**.)
- Make payments in three installments with credit card (automatically deducted) or post-dated checks

To request **the installment plan** or a **scholarship**, please complete the **Installment Plan/Scholarship Request Form**. (*If a scholarship is requested, the **completed form with required documents** must be submitted at the time of request.*) Scholarships are granted on an **as needed basis** according to funds the choir has available. A minimum payment is due at registration. Refer to your Payment Form to calculate this amount. (**If financial circumstances require alternate arrangements, please call Financial Coordinator Krissie McBride – 465-4990**)

TOUR

Each year Oregon Festival Choirs will have a concert tour component in the spring or summer. Touring provides many benefits for the choir member and the organization as a whole. Choristers are able to test their developing skills of personal responsibility, confidence, poise, problem solving, and facing new challenges. But even more exciting is the opportunity to share the joy of music-making with new audiences, collaborate with choirs in other communities, and the fun of traveling with good friends.

Cost of tour is based on the following items:

- transportation
- administration costs
(phone calls, sponsor gifts,
post cards, posters, and programs)
- sightseeing and admissions
- accommodations
- meals

The touring goal is to provide every choir member with a lasting and positive performing and educational experience. Tour budgets are based on participation by all members. As stated in **Program and Policies** section of this booklet, all choristers are expected to participate in tour. It is the responsibility of the chorister's family to ensure that the financial commitment for tour is met. Parents who anticipate potential problems meeting financial obligations should contact the choir office well in advance of tour dates regarding procedure for financial assistance.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms for Oregon Festival Choir members are leased for the season for \$40. By maintaining a choir wardrobe and leasing them to choristers, OFC is able to keep the costs down as well as exchange for new size to accommodate chorister growth during the season. Chorister family assumes replacement cost for any lost or damaged uniform components. An additional \$10 pays for the rehearsal t-shirt which becomes the property of the chorister.

Each chorister is issued Formal (1), Assembly (2), and Informal (3) uniforms as described in the table below. Other items and accessories to be purchased by the choir member are also identified.

UNIFORMS		
BOYCHOIRS	Rental items	Purchase items
(1) Formal	Tuxedo pants and shirt Black bow tie & vest (Allegro) Maroon bow tie and cummerbund (Fiero)	Black dress shoes Black socks
(2) Assembly	OFC polo	Black dress shoes Black socks
(3) Informal	OFC rehearsal t-shirt	Blue jeans or pants w/ belt
GIRLCHOIRS	Rental items	Purchase items
1) Formal	Gacho Pants / White top / Scarf (Lyrica) Black skirt / Tuxedo shirt/ bow tie (Cantilena)	Black dress shoes* Black nylons (Cantilena) <i>not tights</i>
(2) Assembly	OFC polo	Black dress shoes*
(3) Informal	OFC rehearsal t-shirt	Blue jeans or pants

EXIT 194 & ARIA uniforms TBA.

** specific style and vendor TBA*

Uniform items may be exchanged for size change during season, provided returned uniform items are in excellent condition. The replacement cost of any damaged or lost item will be billed to the chorister's account. When returning uniforms at end of season, please follow cleaning instructions.

For more information on uniforms, call the OFC office or email the Wardrobe Coordinator. (See Staff Directory earlier in this booklet.)

UNIFORM CARE

Your uniform is property of Oregon Festival Choirs. It is to be used for OFC performances only and should not be worn for any non-choir occasions. When wearing your uniform, you are identified as a member of the choir. The moment you put on your uniform, whether at home or at a concert site, think of yourself as stepping onto the stage until you are back home and in your regular clothing again.

Remember that you are responsible for the appearance and long life of your uniform. Avoid eating meals in uniform before or after performances. Always keep uniform in garment bag on a hanger before and after wearing

When cleaning is necessary, please follow the instructions below.

BOYCHOIR

Tuxedo shirt: Wash warm, dry warm, hang immediately.
If necessary, touch up with medium iron.

Tuxedo pants: Dry clean only.

GIRLCHOIR

Skirt (Cantilena): Dry clean only. Cool iron.

Tuxedo shirt (Cantilena): Wash warm, dry warm, hang immediately.
If necessary, touch up with medium iron.

Pants and top (Lyrica): Machine wash and dry

BOYCHOIR AND GIRLCHOIR

Polo shirt: Machine wash warm, dry warm, hang immediately. If necessary, touch up with medium iron.

TOURS 2010

Due to economic conditions affecting many in the community, tour plans are still being formulated that will reflect these realities. Fund-raising materials will be available to all choir families later in the Fall. Watch for announcements. Tours for EXIT 194, ARIA, Fiero and Lyrica will cost approximately \$200. Allegro and Cantilena tour will cost approximately \$75.