

Call to Worship and Doxology: A short piece sung by the congregation and choir very Sunday. The style for the 10:00 a.m. service is different from the style utilized at the 11:30 a.m. service.

Anthem: A song performed by the choir with or without soloists. It is usually sung each week, but will vary.

Prayer Response: A very short musical interlude following the minister's prayer. It is more meditative and quiet. It can be sung by the choir, or played by a musician.

Offertory: Music played during the taking of the offering. Choir members should observe silence during this time.

Hymn: A song sung by the congregation and choir.

Detroit or Benediction Response: A very short song sung by the choir that closes the actual church service. The tune and style will vary, depending on the attitude of the service.

Postlude: Music played while the congregation exits. The choir is asked to exit as quietly as possible in consideration of the organist, pianist or other instrumentalists.

Choir Board for 2007-2008

George Odell, Chair
Brenda Alred
Jane Franklin
Leo De Andrade
Lori Laub
Moby Anderson
Sarah Schmitz



Rick Fortner, Music Director
918-743-2363 X312 church
918-749-4959 home

All Souls Unitarian Church

ADULT MUSIC PROGRAM



Music is the universal language of the soul.

The mission of the Adult Music Program is to connect with the spiritual message spoken from the pulpit, becoming the living sound of that message. We seek to uplift and inspire the congregation through an eclectic mixture of musical offerings

PREFORMANCES

The Adult Choir, Counterpoint and Y.A.V.E. perform for All Souls congregation and the community throughout the year.

The Adult Choir rotates performing at **Sunday services** with Counterpoint and Y.A.V.E.. A calendar is maintained each year noting all scheduled performances and is made available to each choir member. Sunday services are held at 10:00 and 11:30. Warm-up for the 10:00 service begins promptly at 9:30; for the 11:30 service, warm-up begins promptly at 11:00.

Special performances include the **Christmas Concert** and **Candlelight Christmas Eve** services, all held in December. Each spring the Adult Choir performs a **Spring Concert**, usually in May. Other public performances are scheduled at the discretion of the director.

REHEARSALS

The Adult Choir rehearsals are held Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., with a 10-minute break mid-way through the rehearsal. Snacks and drinks are provided each break by the members who volunteer to bring food at least one time each year for the group. Counterpoint and Y.A.V.E. rehearse weekly on days and times designated at the beginning of each year.

ALL SOULS ADULT CHOIR POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In order to sustain a high-quality performance and continue to grow as a choir, it is imperative that members be present at all rehearsals. The following rules are to promote the growth of the choir as a strong musical ensemble.

- ♪ The choir year is scheduled into two semesters:
 - ◊ The **Fall semester** begins in late August, culminates with the performance of the Christmas Concert and officially closes at the end of December.
 - ◊ The **Spring Semester** begins in January, culminates with the Spring Concert and officially ends around the end of May.
- ♪ Each member is asked to commit to one semester at a time.
- ♪ Each member is asked to commit to attending a **minimum of 75% rehearsals**. This averages out to missing no more than two rehearsals or Sunday services a month. Attendance is taken at every rehearsal and each Sunday the choir performs.
- ♪ If you are unable to sustain this level of attendance once the semester begins, you are requested to voluntarily withdraw from choir.
- ♪ Once you drop out of a semester, you may not re-join until the beginning of the next semester.
- ♪ Special circumstances, such as a death in the family or unexpected illness, will be taken under consideration.

- ♪ The Choir Director approves any **new** members who wish to join once a semester has started. However, it is strongly recommended that new members join at the beginning of each semester.
- ♪ If you know in advance you will miss rehearsal/service, contact your Section Leader. Section Leaders will also check on any member who has missed more than three sessions.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at concert rehearsals is crucial. Last-minute changes or revisions to the performance may arise and, if you are not there, you may find yourself singing an impromptu solo!

- ff If you miss the final rehearsal before a concert, you are asked to receive permission from the choir director to participate. It is the choir member's responsibility to contact the director and get any last-minute changes and permission to attend.
- ff If you miss the last two rehearsals before an outside performance, you are asked not to participate in the performance.

PUNCTUALITY

Being on time is very important. Warming up is an essential part of rehearsal. Arriving late means interrupting rehearsal and that you are not prepared to sing. A considerate choir member is punctual.

ALL SOULS ADULT CHOIR

GENERAL INFORMATION

- q No auditions are required to join the Adult Choir. However, in order to determine proper placement into the appropriate section, the Director may conduct a short vocal assessment.
- q Sections are the **soprano, alto, tenor and bass** voice groups in the choir.



- q Each section has a **Section Leader**. These volunteers act as a liaison between the choir and the Director. Section Leaders are responsible for communicating any changes in scheduling to each member of their group, as well as checking on the well being of members who are absent over an extended length of time.
- q While it is not a requirement for membership, being able to read music is very helpful.
- q **Folders** are the black three-ring binders that contain the music we sing. These pieces consist of **anthems and service music**.
- q Each choir member has a **numbered folder** that is kept in the corresponding slot in the music cart, found in the hallway closet behind the choir loft.
- q **Anthems** change each week. The printed music is usually passed back in during the next Tuesday's rehearsal.
- q **Hymnals** are on the rack under each chair.
- q While we don't have assigned seats, it is important to sit with your section.

contribution not only to the Sunday worship, but also to many other aspects of church life.

Choir members are involved in fund-raising and social activities, as well as service. They participate in Feed the Homeless, holiday caroling and community events. The Adult Choir also travels out-of-town to perform at other Unitarian churches or to hear other groups. They hope to make these road trips an annual event.

COUNTERPOINT

Counterpoint is a small (9 member) a capella group that meets weekly to work on challenging repertoire which they sing for Sunday services and special programs. Auditions are held as needed. Members must be able to read music proficiently.

Y.A.V.E.

Y.A.V.E. - The Young Adult Vocal Ensemble is the most recent addition to our family and is the fastest growing group. It is an a capella ensemble that meets weekly to work on contemporary repertoires. Membership is for adults from the ages of 18 through 35. Auditions are held as needed throughout the year.

‡ Tuesday rehearsal starts *promptly* at 7:00 pm. This means we are in our seats ready to warm up by 6:55 pm. Sunday rehearsal starts at 9:30 am for the 10:00 am service; for the 11:30 am service, rehearsal starts at 11:00 am.

‡ If there is time for a break after the Sunday warm-up, return to the loft at least five minutes before the service starts. Please observe silence once the prelude begins.

LOFT ETIQUETTE

- ⊗ No perfume, cologne, aftershave, scented hand and body lotions or oils should be worn in the loft. Several of our choir members have allergies that can be triggered by these products.
- ⊗ Cell phones and pagers should be put on "silent" anytime you are in the choir loft.
- ⊗ No food or drink is allowed in the loft except bottled water containers with screw-down lids.
- ⊗ When leaving the loft after rehearsal or service, leave nothing behind except hymnals.
- ⊗ So that others may fully participate in the worship service, please remain quiet and unobtrusive during the entire service. If you must leave the loft during the service, please slip out quietly.

CHOIR BOARD

The **Choir Board** is a group of seven choir members who are elected by the choir and meet once a month to organize choir functions. The board assists the director and encourages our choir family in presenting the best choral singing possible for our church. Elections are held each May, with the new board taking over June 1. A copy of the Adult Choir Board By-Laws is available upon request.

IMPORTANT DATES

- ★ **December 15, 2007** - Saturday - Final rehearsal for Christmas Concert
Time —To Be Decided (it will be in the afternoon)
- ★ **December 16, 2007** - Sunday - Christmas Concert - 6:00 p.m. (warm up 5:15)
- ★ **December 24, 2007** - Christmas Eve Services - 4:30 p.m. / 6:00 p.m. / 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Choir members are asked to sing 2 of the 3 Christmas Eve Services. This means making a commitment to be in the loft for either the first and second services, or the second and third services.

Option #1: Warm-up at 4:00 p.m. for the 4:30 p.m. service. The choir is in the loft to sing "Candlelight Carol" and "Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light." Members would then attend the 5:30 p.m. warm-up and stay for the 6:00 p.m. service also.

ALL SOULS ADULT CHOIR



For many years, worship music for All Souls was provided by a paid quartet. In 1978, Jim Walker was asked if he would be interested in directing an adult choir (voluntarily, of course). Working with Janet Allen as Co-Director (and a hefty annual budget of \$100), Jim gathered 16 souls for their first rehearsal in the fall of that year. The Adult Choir's first performance was the following spring at a congregational meeting at the Sheraton Hotel.

In the beginning, there was no loft. The choir sang from the back pews until the early 1970's when the original loft was constructed. The loft was expanded to its current size in 1990 to accommodate its almost 45 voices. Over the years, the choir has seen four permanent and two interim directors. Under one of Tulsa's most talented and versatile choral directors, Rick Fortner, the repertoire has expanded to include traditional and modern sacred music as well as pop, folk, jazz, gospel, blues and new age. These committed, strongly bonded folks make a major

ADULT MUSIC PROGRAM—OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Rick Fortner has served as director of music since 1999. He holds a B.M.E. in vocal music and a M.M. in choral conducting from The University of Tulsa. He has worked as an instructor at The University of Tulsa and has taught at Northeastern State University. He has also prepared and directed the *Tulsa Oratorio Chorus*. Rick's keyboard skills have allowed him creativity in such diverse areas as staff pianist for *Tulsa Ballet*, to being a featured performer on the *Greenwood Jazz Festival* for seven years. Rick has also performed for the *Tulsa Jazz Society Annual Keyboard Concert*, *Ragtime for Tulsa* and the *Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame Concert Series*. Most recently, he was the musical director for "Sophisticated Ladies," a musical review of the life and music of Duke Ellington.

ABOUT THE ORGANIST



Donna VanDall has served as our organist since 1987. She actually began her church music career at the age of 13 when she was asked by her local minister to be their church organist. Donna has studied with nationally known organists Mildred Andrews, Thomas Matthews and continues to study contemporary piano with Donald Ryan.

In addition, Donna is a part-time psychotherapist and earned her MSW degree in 1987. She enjoys gardening, tennis, biking, traveling and spending time with her grandchildren. Her husband, Dave, is the love of her life.

Option #2: Warm-up at 5:30 p.m. for the 6:00 p.m. service, and then stay for the 7:30 p.m. service. The choir is in the loft to sing "Candlelight Carol" and "Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light."

There needs to be a fairly consistent layer of sections for all 3 services. For example, it would be nice not to have 10 sopranos for the first 2 services and only 2 sopranos for the last service.

In summary, the (3) services are at 4:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Warm-ups would be at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. There is no warm-up needed for the 7:30 p.m. service.



GLOSSARY

Prelude: The music before the actual church service begins, as the congregation gathers. During this time, the choir should observe silence.

Introit: A very short song immediately following the prelude. It is used to call the congregation into the actual service. The nature of the tune will vary, but it is usually more uplifting and joyful.