



# Valley Voices

A Cappella  
Chorus

## Welcome to the Valley Voices!

We are so happy that you are considering becoming a member of the Valley Voices. New members are always welcome! This pamphlet is designed to share some information about our vibrant chorus, and to explain how to become a member.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following members of our Leadership Team:

**Adèle Merritt, Director** – [director@valleyvoices.org](mailto:director@valleyvoices.org)

**Carrie Bernard, President** – [president@valleyvoices.org](mailto:president@valleyvoices.org)



*Chapter President, Carrie Bernard and Director, Adèle Merritt*

## Introduction to the Valley Voices

Valley Voices is an a cappella chorus that welcomes all women. Based in Kentville, Nova Scotia, our members come from communities throughout the Annapolis Valley and beyond.

We belong to Harmony, Incorporated – a non-profit international organization of women, with over 80 chapters in Canada and the US who enjoy singing a cappella four-part harmony in the barbershop style. Membership offers women an opportunity to improve their vocal technique, enjoy friendship, traveling, education and performing.

Each spring we compete in our area contest with other chapters from the Atlantic Provinces. As well as being a competing chorus, Valley Voices is a performing chorus and entertains at a variety of community events.

All women with a love of singing are welcome to join us! Formal music training is not required. We meet Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:30 pm at the Kentville United Baptist Church (downstairs) on the corner of Main and Webster Streets.

## Which part will you sing?

We sing close four-part a cappella harmony which suits both low and higher voice types. During your first few weeks of attending regular rehearsals, our Director, Adèle will do a Personal Voice Assessment (PVA) with you to confirm which part best suits your vocal range. Our arrangements are written using the following voicings:

Lead – sings primarily the melody in a mid to high range

Tenor – sings the highest notes of the four harmony parts, like a descant

Bass – sings the lowest foundational notes of the four harmony parts

Baritone – sings mostly mid-range harmony, completing the chords

Following the PVA, you will be asked to prepare a song for your audition in the voice part you're most comfortable in. Then, when you feel ready, your audition will take place with support from your Section Leader, accompanied by 3 other experienced members singing the other 3 parts. (This is far less daunting than it may sound!)

### Member Dues & Policies

The Valley Voices is member chapter of Harmony Incorporated (HI). HI is made up of 6 Areas or regional zones and over 80 Chapters in Canada and the USA. HI provides its member chapters with music and choral education, opportunities to be coached by highly qualified vocal and choral music specialists, and opportunities to compete and be assessed among other HI Chapters in our Area, and internationally. Each Valley Voices member pays the following annual dues (2024 prices):

Valley Voices Chapter dues:	\$200 CAD
Area 1 dues	\$10 CAD
Harmony, Inc	\$75 USD

Members are asked to understand and adhere to a few important policies that ensure all our members have an excellent experience. The key policies are:

- The Valley Voices Code of Conduct
- The Valley Voices Scent-Free Policy.

A member of the Board and Membership committee will review these policies with each new members to provide an opportunity for questions.

### Convention & Contest Events and Public Performances

Each year, the Valley Voices participates in the annual Area 1 Convention and Contest, normally held the first weekend of June at Mount Allison University, in Sackville, N.B. In addition to the excitement of competing, participants are offered education classes, chorus coaching

experiences and many fun social events. Choruses and Quartets who achieve a qualifying score are eligible to compete at the International HI Contest held each year in November.

Throughout the year, the Valley Voices enjoys performing in community events. We also organize our own performance shows, to showcase our music as well as the talent of other guest musicians in our community.

### Volunteer opportunities within the Valley Voices Chapter

Our chorus chapter is run by member volunteers. In the spirit of 'many hands (and voices) make light work', there are many opportunities within the chapter to get involved to help the organization run smoothly. Here are just a few:

Board member positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Members at Large)

Committee chair and member positions. Our standing committees include, Membership, Fundraising, Logistics, Social, Music. We also have Ad-hoc committees that are regularly formed to take on projects!

### Need more answers?

We love questions! Please reach out to Adele or Carrie if you'd like more information or would like to begin the process of joining the Valley Voices as a member.



*Valley Voices Friends and Family Night – May 2024*