

Mystic Chorale Description

The Mystic Chorale is a non-profit, volunteer-run community chorus based in Arlington, Massachusetts.

Our mission is to make music a participatory experience, promoting singing as an act of compassion while exploring through song the musically rich and diverse cultures that abound in this world.

We welcome all who love to sing!

Mystic is an un auditioned chorus with a wide range of singing ability, musical skills such as ability to read music, and ability to independently learn music. Singers may choose to audition for soloist positions when available.

The Chorale was founded in 1989 by Boston-based composer, conductor, author, and song leader Nick Page. Thirty plus years later, the Mystic Chorale consistently provides a participatory musical experience for both singers and audience in three separate seasons per year. Fall and Spring season themes vary, ranging from folk to world music to spirituals and the blues; the winter season is dedicated to Gospel. For the last 12 years the Gospel season has been directed by Jonathan Singleton or Donnell Patterson.

Mystic strives to provide additional opportunities, for singers who are interested, to perform through community sings, concerts in assisted living homes and touring. Mystic has toured in Ireland, Germany, Costa Rica, Quebec City, New York City and, most recently, the 2022 Fringe Fest in Scotland. Quite an achievement!

Within each season, Mystic Chorale has established a consistent rehearsal schedule that meets for approximately ten weeks on Tuesday evenings at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, MA. Each season culminates with a dress rehearsal and concert. Most recently, the concert venue has been Cary Hall in Lexington, MA. For many years previous, the venue was Tremont Temple in downtown Boston.

Mystic has invited special guests to perform with them such as Pete Seeger, Reggie Gibson, Bill Staines, Jim Scott, Billy Novick, Donnell Patterson and Dr. Ysaye Maria Barnwell. We also musically incorporate musicians from within the chorale as well as local musicians to enhance our concerts. We are always looking for new talent to enhance the experience for both members and audience.

Our concerts have a participatory experience with the audience. Many of the audience members are former Mystic singers who look forward to the chance of joining in on selected songs. This experience is also part of the Mystic's mission statement and an important aspect to maintain.

Mystic has grown into a robust community of 200 singers per season (pre-covid). Members may join for a single season, for two, or for all three. Thus, recruitment is an ongoing activity throughout the year. We are committed to increasing diversity, particularly with regard to age, gender, and ethnicity.

Presently, due to Covid concerns, and in an effort to maintain our membership, Mystic has implemented livestream rehearsals for members not able to attend in-person activities. Concerts have also been livestreamed, as well, preserving our connection with our audience as well as extending our audience across the country!

Mystic Chorale is financially healthy, and its ongoing health as an organization is largely dependent upon singer registrations, ticket sales, and fundraising.

We believe most of our audience members hear about Mystic via word of mouth from friends while also drawing in new audience members through our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Mystic has an extremely dedicated staff, board of directors and over 100 volunteers that coordinate membership, fundraising, outreach, advertising and an online presence through Facebook and our Mystic YouTube channel. Mystic has also been fortunate to tap into the many professional talents of its members to help with advertising, print design, analytical surveys and web design (just to mention a few!)

Mystic has one paid staff person, our Administrative Director, who works on average 20 hours per week. This person's responsibilities include filling and training the many volunteer roles that keep the chorale functioning, keeping the website and mailing list up to date, and maintaining the relationship with our rehearsal hall.

Mystic Chorale is an enthusiastic group of singers who prove at every concert that we all have the ability to be amazing!

View some videos on our YouTube channel to see us in action.

[Www.YouTube.com/@themysticchorale3177](https://www.youtube.com/@themysticchorale3177)

Here is a link to our most recent concert program, Dec 8, 2023.

<https://mysticchorale.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Mystic-Concert-Program-Fall-2022.pdf>

