

## **Charlottesville Threshold Singers**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***Where and when do we gather to rehearse?***

- Rehearsals take place at Church of the Savior, 1165 Rio Rd. East, Charlottesville, VA, 22901.
- We rehearse together on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. (except for Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays).
- Our rehearsals are a good opportunity to get to know the members and others thinking of becoming members. Most rehearsals include some tending to “business,” such as scheduling and sharing Threshold community information.

#### ***Do I have to audition to join the Charlottesville Threshold Singers?***

- There is no audition to join the Charlottesville Threshold Singers. We simply ask that you can comfortably carry a tune and sing in 3-part harmony. When we sing bedside and in the community, we sing *a capella* (without accompaniment).

#### ***If I have questions, who do I ask?***

- If you are interested in joining the Charlottesville Threshold Singers, you will be offered a “buddy,” who will answer any questions you might have about the Charlottesville Threshold Singers, the national Threshold Choir organization, and learning our songs.

#### ***How will I learn the Threshold repertoire?***

- We will invite you to learn a few core songs at a time, in groups of 4 or 5 called “Bouquets.” We’ll send YouTube links for each Bouquet so that you may learn on your own by listening and singing along to gain confidence in singing with us at rehearsals. When you’ve learned the melody, you can then focus on learning your part if you sing one (alto or soprano). Once you’ve mastered the first Bouquet of songs, we’ll send you the next Bouquet.

#### ***Will I be expected to memorize all these songs?***

- Most of the songs are very short, with simple melodies that are easy to learn. Over time and with practice, you’ll find you no longer need to look at the sheet music. Until that time, it is OK to glance at your music when we are singing in the community or by the bedside.

#### ***How do I begin the process to become a Threshold member?***

- When you are ready to officially join the Charlottesville Threshold Singers, visit the national website <https://thresholdchoir.org/> and click on the “Join a Chapter” button on the top right-hand side. Just follow the prompts to sign up.

***Do I have to buy a songbook?***

- The spiral bound *Threshold Choir Songbook* is a collection of Threshold music from the first 15 years of the Threshold Choir. It is available to purchase via the website, <https://thresholdchoir.org> once you officially become a member of the national Threshold Choir. Until that time, we have several “loaner” copies available.
- Threshold Choir members can purchase the songbook for \$40 (highly recommended) or purchase a digital download for \$20.
- The Charlottesville Threshold Singers also maintains a 3-ring binder of additional songs that we continue to sing.

***Does it cost to join the Charlottesville Threshold Singers?***

- We are part of the national Threshold Choir organization, which requires members pay the annual dues, a donation based on what the individual can afford. The recommended dues are \$84 annually. Monthly payment plans are an option.

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***What do the annual dues cover?***

- The annual dues cover the administrative costs of the national organization, including extensive online resources. Members have access to the entire online Threshold repertoire, including sheet music, teaching audios of songs by individual parts and three-part harmonies. There are other helpful resources available to members on the website, including training modules.

***I'm not sure about singing bedside to someone who is actively dying. Is that OK?***

- Bedside singing is our core mission, and it is perfectly normal to be hesitant to sing bedside to someone who is actively dying if you've never had the opportunity.
- To help you feel more equipped to take this step, once you are a member you will be required to take the online Bedside Curriculum Training provided by the national organization. This comprehensive online course covers the skills and knowledge necessary to be an effective and comfortable bedside singer.
- There are opportunities to sing with the Charlottesville Threshold Singers at nursing homes and in the community at various events as you gain confidence singing the repertoire to others.
- If you've become a volunteer with Hospice of the Piedmont, you may join the Threshold Singers when we sing bi-monthly at their in-patient facility, Hospice House on the first and third Wednesday at 3:30pm. We recommend these opportunities as a great way to build your confidence in singing bedside.
- At each step, the decision to sing bedside is determined mutually between the new member and the leaders of the Charlottesville Threshold Singers. The final choice is always up to you.

***Do I need to get certified as a Hospice volunteer?***

- Many of the people we sing to are referred to us by one of the local hospice organizations, though we also respond to requests that come directly from individuals and families.
- When we sing for patients referred to us through one of the local hospices, such as Hospice of the Piedmont (HOP) and Legacy Hospice, we are considered volunteers to those organizations and must follow their volunteer training requirements.

***How is the Charlottesville Threshold Singers organized?***

- We call ourselves a “leader-full” group -- full of members willing to share the leadership by taking on different tasks at different times. We keep a membership roster with contact info and leadership roles.

***Do you welcome men singers in the Charlottesville Threshold Singers?***

- Many Threshold Choirs around the country include men. Our group is currently all women, though we welcome male singers who want to sing with us.