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*Welcome...*

## **TO THE WORLD OF CMI!**

This is a place where notes become beautiful melodies, words are ways to express eternal truths, light becomes true illumination, noise is turned into music, faces are filled with smiles, hearts are made to sing, fantastic human relationships grow in fertile soil, the Bible takes on new relevance, work becomes fun, accomplishment is rewarded by appreciation, and caring for one another becomes a part of life.

This is a place where God is our ultimate Director, Jesus is Lord, and the Holy Spirit is our honored guest at each function; where people are not only friends but family, where leadership is welcome, where PRAISE is a way of life, where miracles happen often, where thankful, praying, working people become a part of a continuing dream.

This is a place where people are *not* statistics, but rather clay in the Master Potter's hands; where ordinary people become extraordinary in the hands of the Master.

We believe that any group of musicians who would be great must always, always be performing from the same score.

If we are to continue our pursuit of excellence we must all be **focused**. We must be **united** and **of one accord** and **one mind**. We must always fully support the policies and programs and direction that will best produce the desired results.

A choir or sizable music group is a unique phenomenon. It is one of the finest examples of **togetherness** ever created. It is the pride of heaven and the joy of earth. It is the envy of any one who understands motivation. It is an inspiration to all who believe group *voluntary* discipline can bring miracle results.

We understand its fragile nature. We never take for granted its potential for dissolution.

Therefore we submit this simple score for all of us to follow carefully, prayerfully and consistently, knowing full well the result is that we make beautiful music together and that we're, "*Taking Music to Our World!*"

# **CMI GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **A. CHOIR MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS**

1. The Choir and BROTHERHOOD are pleased to welcome those 17 years of age and older who will make a strong personal commitment to all the good things that will happen in CMI.
2. Each member must pass a simple vocal audition.
3. Each member should be in relatively good health since the production of our concerts is developed with the idea that people listen with their eyes. There is often movement, action and physical commitment.

## **B. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Although members may receive occasional letters, a monthly e-mail giving the details for the rehearsals and concerts will be the primary form of communication. Each member is expected to have access to an e-mail account. This is very important in that it allows each member to be quickly updated with the latest information.
2. A CD of the music and a music book or sheet music will be given to all members, normally at the beginning of each concert series. Memorization of all music has become a proud tradition and standard. As sheet music is provided you will find it useful to buy a 3-ring loose-leaf notebook in which to keep it. All correspondence and information will come 3-hole punched so you can keep it together with your music. We suggest putting your name on all your supplies.

## **C. REHEARSALS**

Rehearsals are normally held once a month on the second Saturday. We request that you make arrangements to leave any children at home during rehearsals as it is impossible for us to provide child care.

## **D. CONCERT APPAREL**

1. The costumes are selected by the clothing coordinator and our producer/director. Much thought and research is given to this most important aspect of the Choir's image.
2. It could become necessary from time to time to purchase some specific type and/or style of other costumes. The details for any costumes are given as early as possible so that you can be properly prepared.
  - a. Ladies: The clothing coordinator purchases all of the member's dresses. They are custom made to fit properly so that all may wear them with pride. Each lady purchases her own dress and, of course, keeps it to use later on.
  - b. Men: Each male singer purchases his own tux along with shirts, cummerbund, tie and suspenders. We are able to purchase these at about half price since they are supplied by a rental company.
3. In order to preserve concert clothing, it is a good idea to use a garment bag in transporting them. We request that costumes be worn *only* during a performance or for a dress rehearsal as specifically needed.
4. The Choir performs as a unit and strives to present a uniform appearance. With that in mind the following will not be worn during performances:

All jewelry (with the exception of wedding/engagement rings and accessories designated as part of the costume)

No hair adornments can be worn (bows, glitter, flowers, headbands, sparkly barrettes/combs)

Glitter

Apparel with slogans or organizational logos (except those designated as part of the costume)

Athletic shoes

### **E. CONCERT SERIES**

We take pride in professionally staging our concerts and since we are all one piece of the total beautiful puzzle, all choir members are expected to participate in all rehearsals and all performances during a concert series.

### **F. MONTHLY DUES/OFFERINGS**

We promised the Lord when we started many years ago that we would attempt to pursue excellence in everything. We further made a commitment to pay all obligations on time and honorably.

To assist in keeping our promise and commitments, an offering (dues) in the amount of \$20.00 per month for each member, including leadership, has been established. Dues may be paid as follows:

- A. \$20.00 monthly for eleven months (dues are not paid in November). Total amount per year would be \$220.00.
- B. Pay for the year in advance (during the months of January and February) and receive a one month discount (you pay for only 10 months) and your total yearly amount would be only \$200.00.

To participate in the concert series, it is required that a choir member be current in their monthly dues.

If for unavoidable reasons you aren't able to be at rehearsal you can mail your dues to Jan Callison, Senior Administrator, 1460 Leisure Drive, Flint, MI 48507.

Although it is common in churches that staff and ministry leaders receive a salary, this is not the case in CMI. No one in the Choir, including leadership, receives a salary.

In addition to thousands of hours of volunteer help, business and ministry partners donate services and supplies at no cost or at reduced rates. Our dues and offerings help cover such items as:

music printing	recording	accounting	rehearsal facility
telephone	props	legal	original arrangements
music purchase	shipping	costumes	storage/warehouse
DVDs /CDs	set/staging	truck rental	sound equipment
tracks	postage	promotion	airline travel
rental	envelopes	long distance	copy machine & fax
music copying	stationery	office supplies	printing

Members are encouraged to consider offerings and special gifts of love to provide funding for other needs. Each month we all plant financial seeds in good CMI soil and watch our seed grow into a harvest. There will always be a prayer of blessing upon gifts and givers.

All moneys are double checked by at least two staff members and our CPA before banking. We have a yearly audit and financial report for our members.

### **G. TICKET SALES**

As part of our membership commitment, each member is expected to sell a minimum of 20 tickets. This can be accomplished by purchasing the tickets in advance to sell or give away. You can also receive credit for a ticket sale by having your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and church friends mention your

name when they order their tickets by phone or online. Your chapter chairperson can provide you with more information regarding ticket sales.

CMI provides flyers, posters, mailed announcements, and media coverage in newspapers, on radio and television. These steps help create an environment in which to sell tickets. Members of the Choir assist in this process.

This also creates an environment in our “world” whereby we can witness, be a light in darkness, and it creates a wonderful platform to affect change and spread good news.

**However, the experience of past years has forcefully demonstrated that the friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers and church friends of our members are our primary audience.** This ministry has grown over the years because choir members have involved people in their world in our musical mission.

#### **H. SOUVENIR PROGRAM**

CMI provides a colorful souvenir program for our audiences. These “free” programs are made possible by those who support CMI by advertising in our program. Therefore, there is the expectation that each choir member will sell the minimum of one (1) advertisement. These consist of a full, half, or quarter page ad. It could also be simply a business card. There is a section to place memorials and classified style pages for your church to be listed. Your chapter chairperson can provide you with more information regarding our souvenir program.

#### **I. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

Arrive early at each rehearsal in order to allow time to greet friends and be seated in your voice section by starting time. Prior to each rehearsal, **sign in at the registration table** and pick up any new music and/or instructions. You may also pick up your dues envelope which will be collected during rehearsal. Your dues envelope then becomes your record of attendance, registration and support. It also provides you with your supplies as well as all the benefits of membership.

**You will receive a special name tag. Please wear it at all rehearsals.** It will also serve as a stage pass within our security system at concerts. You will become aware of new members by their uniquely colored badges.

#### ***In Conclusion~***

At each rehearsal get ready for a dynamic three hours packed with singing, praising, sharing, learning, crying, laughing, and worshiping. We welcome your creativity and assistance in any area of interest and qualification. Let us always follow this dynamic truth. The simple act of commitment is a powerful magnet for help. The moment we commit and reject holding back, all sorts of unforeseen people, events and circumstances will rise up to assist us. This is the score. With your agreement and commitment...

***“Let the music begin!”***

# **THE BROTHERHOOD**

## **MEN...MAKING A DIFFERENCE...IN SONG**

The year 1996 marked the beginning of a new dimension in music. Called the BROTHERHOOD, it is the finest musical expression of eternal truth using the excellence of male voices.

The BROTHERHOOD has continued to grow each year and will be a featured part of all future concert series.

There will be news and specific information as needed of and for the BROTHERHOOD included in the monthly communication.

We will be looking at special costuming and staging as well as graphics and promotion for the BROTHERHOOD.

There is already surprising interest in the BROTHERHOOD in other areas of the country. We intend to lead the way in raising the standard of excellence and commitment. God is calling us to lead the way upward.

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