

***Soli Deo Gloria Choir***

***Colorado Springs, Colorado***

***Member Handbook***

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[www.solideogloriacs.org](http://www.solideogloriacs.org)

Greetings from Your Board of Directors

Soli Deo Gloria Choir (“To God Alone Be Glory”) is a non-auditioned community choir dedicated to performing sacred choral music in our community for the glory of God.

Founded in 1973 by Judy and Ken Westcott, Soli Deo Gloria has performed many of the world's greatest sacred masterpieces, as well as many fine pieces in the modern sacred repertoire. The Board of Directors appreciates the time, talent, financial support and commitment to excellence that you, the members of this organization, have given.

The Board is elected by you to represent and work on your behalf in

continuing the goals of the organization. Members are encouraged to bring

concerns to the Board, and to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are usually held on the first Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to present to the Board should contact our president one week prior to the meeting, so that your item can be added to the agenda.

Thank you again for your dedication to Soli Deo Gloria.

**Our Mission**

Soli Deo Gloria is a community choir dedicated to performing a wide range of sacred music for the people of the Pikes Peak region.

**Our Vision**

**Soli Deo Gloria Choir's vision** is that high quality sacred choral music will be experienced and shared across generations.

Prayer

Each rehearsal begins with a short prayer, spoken and/or sung. If you have something that needs prayerful mention, please email Soli at [info@solideogloriacs.org](mailto:info@solideogloriacs.org) during the week prior to the Monday evening rehearsal so it will be included in the *News & Notes*.

About Our Director

Gary De Kler completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in music at CSU-Pueblo with emphasis in voice. He received his Master of Fine Arts degree in choral conducting at the University of California-Irvine. He was music director for the Church of St. Thomas More in Oceanside, CA, then came to the Air Force Academy as director of the Catholic music program in 2003 and remains there today.

Mr. De Kler’s Air Force career was spent with the AF Band of the East at McGuire AFB and the AFA Band in Colorado, performing on string bass, electric bass, tuba, as a vocalist, and director of various ensembles. He founded the A Cappella Singers, an ensemble unique to AF Bands at that time. Mr. De Kler also served for 15 years as music director for St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Colorado Springs. He retired from the Air Force after 20 years, was chosen to be the director of Catholic music programs for the Academy Cadet Chapel, and became the director of the Catholic Cadet Choir. Mr. De Kler has conducted numerous choirs for the Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs and is sought as a clinician and consultant on choral and liturgical music. He has served as an adjudicator for choral competitions and festivals. He has performed as a soloist and tenor section leader for the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble. He recently organized and directs the Roman Catholic Chamber Choir of Colorado Springs. He was chose to be the director of the Soli Deo Gloria Choir in 2011.

Mr. De Kler and his wife Emma have two daughters and eight grandchildren.

About Our Accompanist

Charlene Noland, a Colorado Springs native, currently serves as organist at Faith Presbyterian Church, is an accompanist for the choral and voice departments at Pikes Peak Community College, sings and plays with Abendmusik and accompanies an all female group, Sotto Voce. She is also Administrator for KCME's “Classics for Kids - Road Show,” a program that takes classical music into elementary classrooms. In Sacramento, California, she was music director at Christ Community Church and taught voice for many years. She is a proud alumna of the University of Northern Colorado.

About Our Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for Soli Deo Gloria is made up of a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 people. Elections are held each year in April, and anyone may run for a position. Typically, 6 are elected for a two year term so that, at any one time, at least 6 are remaining from the previously elected Board. Officers of the Board are elected by the Board members. The officers of the corporation are the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additionally, one ex officio member is the Music Director. All the Board members are dedicated to ensuring the health and soundness of the organization as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws for the non-profit corporation. From time to time, committees from the Board will solicit general membership for volunteers to help with projects. When that time comes, please give willingly of your time and energy.

Membership Dues and Music Fees

Members are asked to pay dues to help defray costs, which may include

rent for rehearsal and performance spaces, professional musicians and rented scores, and organizational expenses (banking, network and email services, office products, etc.).

Dues are currently **$60 per semester**. Dues are required to be **paid by the**

**conclusion of the third rehearsal** of each semester and are not refundable.

The Board will work confidentially on a case-by-case basis with those who

may have difficulty meeting these deadlines.

Each singer is responsible for the cost of his/her own music. This generally ranges from $35 to $45 per semester. These **fees are due by the conclusion of the third rehearsal of each semester**. A firm cover **black binder** is also required to hold the music. Standard music sizes are 7” x 10.75” x 1.5”, 8.5” x 12” x 1.5” and 10.75” x 12.5” x 1.5”, with 3 rings. If you already own the music, you must bring it to registration for review. Once music is purchased, refunds will not be given. If the director deems it necessary, the purchase of a rehearsal CD will be mandatory.

Typical Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsals will take place on **Monday nights** at First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., in the basement Fellowship Hall. Occasionally an alternate location is used due to church closure. Rehearsals at alternate locations will be announced in advance.

6:45 - Seated for announcements, prayer, and vocal warm-ups

7:00 - Rehearsal begins

9:00 - Rehearsal ends

Attendance Policy

* A maximum of 3 absences is allowed, only one of which may be a dress rehearsal.
* All members are required to attend the final dress rehearsal. If you must be absent, only the Music Director's consent will allow concert participation.
* If you miss **4 rehearsals**, you must have the approval of your section leader and the Music Director in order to perform in the concert.
* Those who miss 4 rehearsals will sing in a **group audition** for the Music Director.
* Missing **5 or more rehearsals** prohibits performing in the concert.
* If you are more than 15 minutes late or leave at break, a one-half absence will be given.

Concert Attire

Concert attire is simple and uniform. **Do not wear concert attire for dress rehearsals.**

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MEN

* **Black** suit or tux (no other colors)
* Tux shirt (standup collar) with cufflinks, studs and cummerbund
* Black bow tie, black socks, black shoes

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WOMEN

* Special order black top and bottom pieces
* Pearl necklace, pearl stud earrings only if earrings are worn. No hair bows, flashy watches or bracelets
* Black shoes, black hosiery, black slip (if worn)

Solo Auditions

Whenever there are solos in our musical repertoire, we invite any member

of the choir to audition for parts. Singers who are not members of Soli may also be granted auditions, and may be awarded the parts. Parts are awarded to those singers who can perform in the manner required by the Music Director.

Singers selected for solo parts will be advised as early as possible for each performance season. Results are announced at rehearsals and in the *News & Notes*.

Fund-Raising Opportunities

There are many ways to help Soli financially – make a donation, sell program ads and Butter Braids, and/or by participating in the Bake and Craft Sale. Several companies in town provide “matching funds” to your donation to tax-exempt organizations (like Soli). Check with your Human Resources Director at your workplace to see if your company participates. Send your completed company form with your donation, and see your gift multiply! The sale of Butter Braids has proven to be a great fund raiser. A Bake and Craft Sale is typically conducted during each fall semester.

Advertisements in Soli Concert Programs

The printed materials for the Soli concerts are sent to a printer so that quality can be maintained. Soli offsets these costs by offering local merchants the opportunity to purchase advertising space in our concert programs. You will receive a hand out that you can take to the merchants and professionals you patronize. (Think about all the places you might go in the course of one week—doctors, dentists, salons, lawyers, restaurants, and small businesses of all kinds.) Ask for their help in supporting Soli by purchasing an ad. You can take a concert program along to show people the quality.

Ad space sells for the following prices:

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| 1/8 page = $45 (1 season)/$75(both seasons) |  |
| 1/4 page = $65 (1 season)/$110(both seasons) |  |
| 1/2 page = $110(1 season)/$190(both seasons) |  |
| Full page = $165(1 season)/$290(both seasons) |  |

Copy must be camera ready, black and white. Deadlines for ads are around 6 weeks before the concert. Deadlines and information sheets will be made available. Please get ads in as early in the season as possible, so that the program format can be planned. **Checks for ads should be made payable to Soli Deo Gloria**, and given to the treasurer. Questions? Ask the Concert Program Ad Coordinator.

Soli Online

[www.solideogloriacs.org](http://www.solideogloriacs.org/)

The address above will take you to our website. There you'll find lots of useful information, a copy of this Member's Handbook with any updated information, any weather related cancellation notices, and dates, times, and locations of dress rehearsals and performances, along with copies of each *News and Notes.*

[www.facebook.com/SoliDeoGloriaChoirColoradoSprings](http://www.facebook.com/SoliDeoGloriaChoirColoradoSprings)

You can also find us on Facebook. Updates and reminders are posted regarding rehearsals, cancellations, concerts, fundraisers and all other needed information for the choir. Other useful choir and vocal information and opportunities are also posted.

Email Notices

If you have an email address on file with Soli, you will automatically receive a weekly *News & Notes* reminder about upcoming rehearsals and announcements. If you would like to be added to the email list, just send an email to**:**[info@solideogloriacs.org](mailto:info@solideogloriacs.org) and ask to be added, or click on the link on the home page of our website at [solideogloriacs.org](file:///C:\Users\Carole\Documents\soli\Soli%20Deo%20Handbook%20-%20revised%20draft.docx).

Concert CDs

Our concerts are professionally recorded. Forms will be available to order CDs. The deadline for orders will be announced. After the concert, delivery of the CDs will be expedited.

Weather-Related Cancellations

If the weather is so bad that you think rehearsal may be cancelled, check our website, [www.solideogloriacs.org](http://www.solideogloriacs.org), check Facebook, or call your section leader. We will try to send out an email to all members should rehearsal be cancelled. The weather in the Colorado Springs area can vary greatly from one location to another. There may be instances when a rehearsal is not cancelled but yet the weather conditions in parts of town could still make for hazardous travel. Members are expected to use their own judgment concerning their safety. Members who miss a rehearsal due to unsafe travel conditions on their travel route **will not have that particular absence counted against them in regard to the Soli attendance policy.**

Tobacco Policy

All tobacco products are prohibited in and around the church grounds.

Singer Guidelines

* Please be seated by **6:45** for announcements, prayer, and warm-ups.
* Rehearsal singing begins at **7:00**. If late, come in quietly during a pause.
* Please remember a sharp pencil, your music in a black folder, and reading glasses if needed. Water bottles are welcome.
* Please give the Music Director your full attention. Take useful notes.
* Please listen to those around you, and blend with the surrounding voices.
* Please avoid gum. Dry Mouth Syndrome sufferers, please be discreet.
* Good singing involves body awareness. Keep throat and facial muscles relaxed, and shoulders and knees loose.
* Talk with friends during breaks. Focus on singing during rehearsal time.
* Please contact your section leader if you will be absent.
* **All scented personal care products must be avoided. Also avoid tobacco scents on clothing.**
* Electronic devices should not be used except during rehearsal breaks.
* Remember why we are here. Make the most beautiful music possible. Use our voices and faces to tell the story.