



**Chorus Financial Assistance Policy and Application  
Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus**

Rocky Mountain Arts Association has made a commitment to turn no person away from membership in our programs due to an inability to meet the financial commitments required as part of chorus membership. To that end, a limited amount of financial assistance is available to help cover everything from monthly dues to retreat costs.

The primary expense for membership is monthly chorus dues, currently **\$30** per month. A discounted rate of **\$25** is available if monthly Auto-Pay is set up. Dues are payable over a full year, corresponding with our fiscal year of August 1 through July 31. Dues can also be paid in full for the year at the same discounted rate (\$300 total).

With financial assistance, monthly chorus dues can be reduced to **\$17, \$12 or \$7**. To ensure that financial assistance is available to all those in need, we do ask that members awarded assistance pay the highest of these three amounts as possible. On a case-by-case basis we will work with members who are not able to cover any of these amounts (use checkbox on reverse side).

The application process is simple, but the effectiveness of the program is dependent on all applicants providing *accurate information regarding ability to pay*. Financial assistance is provided for one year at a time, and must be reapplied for each year (August through July). It is each applicant’s responsibility to inform the chorus of any change in their circumstances so that adjustments to the Financial Assistance can be made.

RMAA reserves the right to cancel financial assistance at any time, and the reason(s) for cancellation will be discussed with the impacted member prior to cancellation. We ask that members use discretion and respect regarding their participation in the program. If you have been awarded financial aid, keep in mind that others are covering for you; your fellow singers. Every aid recipient who is able, should make financial aid a brief stop along the way. When your financial situation changes for the better, please consider switching to full monthly payments.

In exchange for financial assistance we do ask that *each member volunteer* as much of their time as possible for chorus-related activities, such as committees, fundraising activities, set-up and tear-down for concerts, etc. Please see attached **Financial Assistance Volunteer Requirements** for minimum requirements to receive and continue assistance.

To be considered for financial assistance, please complete the attached form and return it to the President or Vice-President of your chorus. Applications requesting assistance with retreat costs must be received four (4) weeks prior to the retreat date.

The intention is to keep all scholarship recipient information confidential to Chorus/RMAA leadership. **HOWEVER**, please keep in mind that if you are awarded a reduced rate and you **DO NOT** set up monthly Auto-Pay, then the volunteer support member working at rehearsals will also be aware as you pay them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Request for Financial Assistance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Chorus: DGMC \_\_\_\_\_ DWC \_\_\_\_\_ Out Loud \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please explain below in detail why you need financial assistance. You do not need to include specific figures. Instead, we are relying on you to provide accurate and honest information regarding ability or inability to pay.

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Items requiring financial assistance:

Table with 5 columns: Y/N, Item, and three columns for payment amounts. Rows include Monthly Dues and Rehearsal Retreats.

There may be other miscellaneous items (i.e., chorus t-shirts, travel, etc) that come up occasionally during a season. Please discuss these items with the Financial Aid Committee as necessary.

3. To receive financial assistance, it is required that members enroll in monthly dues autopay or prepay for the year. Exceptions granted at the sole discretion of the Financial Aid Committee.

Please check here if you wish to discuss a different plan or additional assistance is necessary.

4. Please see attached Financial Assistance Volunteer Requirements to determine minimum volunteer requirements and options for the current year. By signing below, you are agreeing to fulfill your volunteer commitment in exchange for Financial Assistance.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Which Rate Is Right For Me? Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus**

In an ideal world, all chorus members would be paying the full monthly dues, understanding that the chorus is non profit, not endowed, that there are expenses with participation, and any portion not paid must be replaced from some other resource.

A member who pays \$7 per month is only paying for one set of sheet music and one annual GALA membership fee. These expenses are directly related to an individual's participation in the chorus. There are many other expenses for the chorus as a whole. Four expenses that should be important to all members of Out Loud are salaries for artistic staff, purchase of music, production costs and performance venue rental. Dues cover less than 40% of these four expenses, but they're a significant portion of the organization's budget and an important part of what we share as a community. A member who pays \$12 per month is covering the \$7 individual costs and is paying \$5 toward the shared expenses. A member who pays \$17 per month is paying \$10 toward the shared expenses. We sincerely appreciate your honest assessment of your current financial situation and your willingness to help share the expenses of the chorus at the highest level you can afford.

Financial Aid should not be viewed as either of the following:

- A way to get your dues lowered to the lowest allowed amount so you'll have more money to spend on other items you'd like to purchase, or
- A way to pay the minimum dues because you don't believe that dues should be required to participate in the chorus

The \$7 level is intended for members who are experiencing severe financial difficulties. The only members who we expect to be requesting financial assistance at the \$7 per month level are members who honestly believe that in an average week, the total amount spent on the following types of items is less than \$15.

- Entertainment—including dining out, movies, bars or nightclubs, concerts, performing arts, etc.
- Other purchases of goods or services that would normally be considered as non-essential purchases including alcohol and cigarettes

If a member is regularly spending over \$35 per week on the items above, we believe that the member should be able to afford the normal \$25 per month auto-pay dues rate and should not be requesting financial aid.

Thanks again for your willingness to share the expenses of the chorus.

## **Financial Assistance Volunteer Requirements Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus**

In exchange for financial assistance we ask that each member volunteer as much of their time as possible for chorus-related activities, such as committees, fundraising activities, set-up and tear-down for concerts, etc. Minimum requirements to be considered for financial assistance are 2 credits per concert season (Sept-Dec, and Jan-June). Please note that while financial assistance covers an entire year of chorus, you must earn 2 credits in the first season for the assistance to carry over to the second, and 2 in the second to retain that assistance.

Members who do not complete 2 credits **per season** risk financial assistance being reduced or cancelled. All exceptions are at the sole discretion of the Financial Aid Committee and must be discussed prior to the end of the concert season.

### **Examples for Volunteer Credit (1 per item)**

- Committee volunteer (library, pride, production, etc)
- Concert riser setup/takedown
- Rehearsal snack clean up and trash collection for one month
- Rehearsal Chair Setup for one month
- Rehearsal raffle ticket sales for one month
- Potluck/picnic room setup/takedown
- Volunteer sign-in recorder (see Credit Process below)

Please note this is not an exhaustive list of volunteer opportunities. Other items may come up during the course of a season, for not only Out Loud but for RMAA and our other programs. As we identify these, they will be announced and you may sign up for credit. In addition, if you identify a task you feel is a volunteer opportunity, please discuss with the President or Vice-President of your chorus, and we will come to a mutual understanding.

### **Credit Process**

It is the member's sole responsibility to record credit for any volunteer activity performed. Each activity will have a member with a sign-up sheet that all volunteers will be asked to sign at the time of the service. It is up to you to ensure that you sign in for any activity you join, as these will be used to ensure each financial aid member qualifies for continued assistance.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_