

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO A *BESERE VELT*

A Besere Velt (ABV) means 'a better world' in Yiddish. We are a volunteer-run chorus with a professional music director, Derek David, and we're a program of Boston Workers Circle (BWC), a secular, progressive, Jewish organization of more than 600 members. We're delighted that you are interested in singing with us and we welcome you to our choral community. We also hope that most ABV members also become active members of BWC, and find other ways of connecting to our vibrant community.

This short document is designed for ABV newcomers and returning members to provide a few basics about how to manage life in ABV. Please refer to the Policies and Procedures document on our website for more detail.

- Boston Workers Circle website: circleboston.org. We encourage all ABV members to become BWC members!
- ABV's website: abvchorus.org. Here's what you'll find there...
 - Overview page with the season's calendar
 - Page with current season's music (in pdfs), sectional mp3s, etc.
 - Page with all music resources
 - Page with random collection of ABV related media
- ABV has two volunteer "management" committees:
 - A Steering Committee that provides oversight to chorus operation and direction
 - An Infrastructure Committee that assists with chorus logistics, such as dues collection, gig sign ups, membership lists, etc.
- Each section (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) has one or more section leaders who will provide some musical and logistical assistance.
- ABV has a small ensemble, the "mini-ensemble," for singers who want additional challenges and performance opportunities. It is open by audition, usually in the Fall.
- ABV uses two email groups that are mandatory for chorus matters, and one that is optional for informal communication:

- o abeserevelt@googlegroups.com – **for whole chorus matters only.** Messages to this list will typically come only from the Music Director or members of the Steering or Infrastructure Committees.
 - o Sectional lists, e.g., abv-altos@googlegroups.com, typically initiated by section leader **about sectional matters only.**
 - o abv-shmooze@googlegroups.com – Optional list for informal matters to be shared with ABV compatriots (e.g., misplaced music, calls for political action, your uncle's cat video on YouTube, sale of autographed Karl [or Groucho] Marx manuscript, etc.). Anyone can initiate a shmooze message.
- If you cannot print a copy of the music for a particular rehearsal, contact ABVlibrarian@gmail.com as early in the week as possible. Requests made late Friday or on Saturday may not be seen.
- ABV usually has one major concert each year, typically in the Spring, and then has other concerts or activities throughout the year.
- The basic chorus attire for concerts is a black outfit, selected to maintain visual consistency. Contact Judith Schwartz (jschwartz.licsw@gmail.com) for assistance in this matter.
- We have a Policies and Procedures document which lays out expectations for many matters including...
 - o Attendance
 - o Participation/volunteerism
 - o Learning music
 - o ABV standards for inclusivity
- Newcomer supports include: name tags, section buddies to help get you settled and oriented to the music, and social gatherings.
- **WE HEAR YOU!** All comments, commendations, commiserations and complaints about ABV operations, rehearsals, etc., should be addressed to Steering Committee members in your sections:
 - o Sopranos: Judith Schwartz, jschwartz.licsw@gmail.com
 - o Altos: Marsha Lazar, marsha.lazar@gmail.com
 - o Tenors: Linda Gritz, katzgritz@gmail.com
 - o Basses: Bob Follansbee, bobmoshe@gmail.com