



30 Ways To Be A Better Choir Member



compiled by W. Timothy Bailey for JeFirst Music, LLC

1 Listen. If you constantly chatter, you annoy your director and those sitting close to you. Open mouth when singing, close mouth when not singing.

2 If you ever have to be absent, voluntarily notify the proper person in advance.

3 Send a card to each person in the choir on their birthday.

4 Avoid having a conversation with the choir director about anything just before a rehearsal or worship service.

5 Learn to read music better. Take a course at a community college. Practice reading from the hymnal at home. Get a music-reading partner to keep one another accountable and measure real growth in skill.

6 Come into the church during the week and give the choir room a thorough cleaning - dust, vacuum, wax, shine - if it needs it.

7 Invite a former choir member to dinner at your home. See if you can interest them in returning to the choir.

8 Smile at your other choir members and smile at the choir director even if/when you're tired.

9 Commit yourself to having a joyful experience through the choir and helping those around you to do the same.

10 Ask around the church if your friends know of any musicians in the church who are hiding their light under a bushel. If you discover some, introduce them to the director.

11 Enter the choir loft reverently and joyfully.

12 Bring some unexpected coffee cake next Sunday morning for the choir members.

13 Offer to bring door prizes to the next choir workshop or retreat.

14 Offer to make a choir photograph during some special presentation with copies available for everyone to purchase. If you don't have the camera equipment, find someone in the church who does.

15 Bring some flowers or a gift to the pianist, organist and/or other musician next Sunday morning.

16 Listen when the director is talking, even if he or she is working with a section other than your own.

17 Coordinate the choir robe cleaning. This may mean organizing a group to help you collect and carry them.

18 Throw a "just because" fellowship for the choir at your home.

19 Adopt a new member. Call them, sit by them (if appropriate), talk with them before and after rehearsal and encourage them.

20 Tape record each rehearsal then practice at home.

21 If you are confident with your part, volunteer to stay after rehearsal and help anyone who wants it.

22 Warm up your voice while traveling to the church before rehearsals and worship services.

23 Make God the focus of your music ministry - not the director, not the music and not the congregation.

24 Make a point of saying something positive about the choir and the choir director to one other person in the church every week (or every day, if practical).

25 Pray for the director. Pray for every other choir member - one per day - until you've gone through the entire list.

26 Smile when you sing joyful praise music.

27 Call another choir member on the night before you sing and pray on the telephone together for the choir.

28 Notice your demeanor during the service. Make sure you are not the one guilty of chatting, passing notes, shifting papers, opening cough drops, surveying the congregation, filing nails, distributing candy, etc.

29 Look for a special concert in town that would make a good choir outing. Organize group tickets for everyone.

30 Pray regularly that you would grow spiritually and that God would make you the ministry-minded musician you should be.