

ESSENTIAL VALUES of Golden Tones chorus



1. The program creates a **synergy with its double outreach** – to audiences and singers themselves. Audience members feel their spirits lifted as they sing along, and the singers themselves experience the enjoyment and meaning of doing important work in the community.
2. **Live performances offer an immediacy** like no other artistic experience. Audience and performers meet in a shared experience that they each help create for the other.
3. The program can demonstrate a **positive model of conscious aging with grace and dignity**. Our public appearances at schools, houses of worship, and community events, offer a strong role model of successful aging for the community.
4. **Choral singing offers noticeable health benefits**. Joyful vocalizing, deeper breathing, rhythmic movement, all buoy moods and boost immune system activity. When members face significant life health challenges, the program inspires them to rebound because they feel needed and long to return to the group.
5. **We take pride in our product. Standards of quality matter, and can be met with an inclusive, non-auditioned chorus of amateur singers**. We welcome all singers of retirement age, regardless of musical experience. Rehearsals focus on what the group can achieve together (e.g. clean entrances and cutoffs, dynamic expression, clear enunciation, attention to the director, confidence in delivery). Musical choices are made with both singers and audiences in mind. All members are given sheet music (not simply lyric sheets in most cases) and are offered orientation and musical education as needed. We work hard in rehearsal to deliver well-rehearsed shows. We create thoughtful, pleasing orchestration. We observe carefully chosen criteria for accompanists, soloists, and featured performers. We arrange our "stage" at each venue to ensure optimal visual contact between performers. Public performances merit extra preparation and are not "thrown together" or under-rehearsed.
6. **Members' participation, growth, and experimentation can be encouraged while maintaining standards of quality**. For example, holding "try-ons" for solo parts, instead of "try-outs," offers a chance for members to see if a song fits their talents and readiness without becoming a rejection scenario. The director can make suggestions for improvement, or for other material to try, even if the singer does not yet meet the accepted standard.
7. **Individuals' independence and dignity can be honored with a combination of reasonable expectations and support where needed**. Most members have the ability to perform the basic tasks required of them, such as organizing their own music, driving, and following directions to new places. Those who need assistance receive it from other members, as soon as the need is noticed.
8. **Making music is inherently fun when it is approached with levity and allowance for making mistakes**. Being in the chorus has to be enjoyable. Anyone can learn to be a good choral singer. Rehearsals are where making mistakes should happen. Professional musicians (director, accompanists) also make mistakes. Laughing together creates community.