

Der SMILE Chor – Code of Conduct

Bringing joy and healing through music.

At Der Smile Chor, we are more than just a singing group—we are a community of people from all over the world using our voices to give back. Whether we're singing at a senior home, hospital, shelter, or refugee center, we have a shared purpose: to bring joy, comfort, healing, and human connection through music. That starts with showing up for each other and honoring the spaces we're invited into.

To help us all stay in harmony—on stage and off—we ask every member to uphold the following commitments:

1. Participation is a Commitment, Not Just a Hobby

We love that singing is fun—but being in SMILE Chor also means committing to a shared purpose.

Participation in a season is a commitment to both rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals exist to prepare for our concerts; rehearsal-only participation is not offered except with prior approval from leadership.

- Life happens—if you must miss a rehearsal, listen to the audio tracks, reach out to another singer for help, and catch up before the next session.
- Avoid asking others for their notes during rehearsal—this slows down the group and is distracting.

Attendance Commitment: Registering for a season is a commitment to consistent rehearsal and concert attendance. Members who anticipate missing three or more rehearsals due to planned commitments should not register for that season.

Members who miss more than four rehearsals are not eligible to perform in that season's concerts.

2. Be On Time and Ready

We rehearse and perform in spaces that welcome us warmly, and it's our responsibility to return that respect.

- Rehearsals begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Members should plan their travel to arrive early enough to be unpacked, seated, and ready to sing by 7:00. If your train or U-Bahn schedule makes arrival at exactly 7:00 unlikely, please plan to take an earlier one.

- For performances, we enter venues together as one group—this is key to maintaining a calm, respectful presence.
- Please do not enter the facility early or alone, even if someone offers to let you in. Our group arrival creates a smoother experience for staff and residents alike.

Concert arrival: Performers must arrive by the published call time (typically 45 minutes before the performance). Warm-up and final instructions are considered part of the performance. Members arriving after call time are not eligible to perform in that concert.

3. Support Each Other

We are an international group with many cultures, languages, and talents. Let's celebrate that!

- Be kind, patient, and inclusive with fellow members. **Members who engage in harassment, bullying, or repeated disrespectful behavior may be removed from the group at the discretion of leadership.**
- If someone needs help learning a part or navigating the process, support them outside rehearsal time.
- Communication, flexibility, and shared accountability keep our group thriving.

4. Represent the Chor with Pride

Everything we do reflects on the group—whether we're rehearsing, performing, or simply entering a building. Follow facility guidelines and be mindful of the people we're singing for.

- Please represent SMILE Chor with positivity, professionalism, and gratitude for the opportunity to serve others.
- Dress appropriately. Concert attire during summer season is a solid, brightly colored top or dress (to match the bouquet of balloons!), with neutral pants. No print patterns or black tops, please.

Winter concert season colors are red, green, black, white, and gold. No “ugly sweaters” or alternative colors such as blue, pink, purple, yellow, orange, etc.

Thank You

We are so grateful for each voice, each face, each heart that makes up Der Smile Chor. Let's keep lifting others up—not just through our songs, but through the way we show up for each other and the communities we serve.

Thank you for being part of this beautiful mission.