

ChoralNet Communities Policy

Definitions

[ChoralNet Communities](#) is a tool which allows users to communicate regarding particular sub-topics of choral music and self-identify as a member of a subset of choral musicians. The following list is not all-inclusive, but contains examples of possible communities:

- Age groupings (childrens choirs, college choirs)
- Types of choirs (men's choirs, women's choirs, church choirs, vocal jazz)
- Specific interests (beginning teachers, early music, International Festivals)
- Chapters or committees of professional associations; e.g. ACDA, IFCM
- Individual choirs: an online home and organizational center for individual choirs.

A community may include any combination of the following:

- Blog: a soapbox for the editors of a Community to post on topics of interest
 - Blogs may be replied to or commented on by Community member
 - The Blog editor will moderate the Blog
- Forum: an area for members of a Community to start discussions or make announcements
 - Forums are a meeting place wherein any community member may post a message
 - The Forum editor will moderate the Forum
- Library: a collection of files uploaded by Community editors
- Pages: web pages created by Community editors
- Tagged items: items from elsewhere on ChoralNet which relate to the Community. Any Community member may tag items into the Community.

A community is the property of ChoralNet and is operated by the community owner under policies established by the [ChoralNet Committee](#) of the American Choral Directors Association.

The creation of any community is subject to approval by the ChoralNet Committee or its designee.

Communities must be related to choral music. Communities pertaining to politics, gossip, or personal issues will not be approved.

ChoralNet reserves the right to order the content on the ChoralNet website. A community may or may not be listed in the general Communities area; e.g., an individual choir created as a community may be indexed within the [ChoralNet Choirs Directory](#).

ChoralNet Communities may be of two types - public or private

- Public Communities are the default.
 - Public Communities are visible to the general public, including those not registered on ChoralNet.
 - Any registered user of ChoralNet may join a public Community
- Private Communities are created only by request to the ChoralNet Committee.
 - Private communities are closed to any except Community members
 - Individuals must be approved for membership by the Community owner

Creation/Ownership

Only registered, validated ChoralNet users can create a ChoralNet Community.

The creator of a ChoralNet Community is the first owner of that community

The Community owner must accept the following responsibilities and restrictions.

- The Community owner is responsible for content and copyright.
 - Complaints by copyright owners regarding copyright violation must be addressed by removing the offending items.
 - Inappropriate Community postings are subject to being deleted at ChoralNet's discretion.
 - Complaints by ChoralNet users regarding professional content or conduct on the Community will be investigated by the ChoralNet Committee.
- Latency – an extended period of disuse - will be considered reason for discontinuation of the Community.

A Community creator must agree to these conditions, by clicking an ACCEPT button to submit a community for approval.

To change ownership of a Community

1. Current owner identifies and communicates with future owner regarding transfer of ownership.
2. Current Owner submits a message to ChoralNet webmaster identifying both Community and future owner.
3. Future owner submits a message to ChoralNet webmaster stating agreement to become owner of said Community.
4. ChoralNet webmaster sends link of ownership agreement form to future owner, who reads and submits it to webmaster.
5. Upon receipt of the agreement form, webmaster transfers ownership to new owner.

Community Editors

The creator/owner of a Community becomes its first editor. The owner may designate other members to be editors.

Editors have the following capabilities:

- Edit the Community description
- Edit the Display options,
- Moderate the Community forum and/or blog (see below)
- Upload files to the Community library
- Create, edit, and delete Pages within the Community

Community Members

Any registered user of ChoralNet may join a ChoralNet Community

An unvalidated ChoralNet user - newly registered but one who has not yet posted to a regular ChoralNet forum - may become validated by having a post approved by a Community Editor.

The default setting for an individual who joins a Community is to be subscribed to all Community messages. The user may choose to unsubscribe by the subscription options on their user page.

Community Moderation

All Community messages are held in stasis until approved by Community editors. Editor moderating responsibilities include

- Moderating posts to the communities in a timely fashion.
- Supervising forum and blog comments to eliminate off-topic posts
- Reporting spam or other types of abuse to ChoralNet webmaster or designee.
- Supervising tagged items for appropriateness to the Community.

These tasks may be jointly shared or appointed specifically to various editors.