



Start Local, Stay Vocal

## Welcome to Justice Choir!

Justice Choir is a template to encourage more group singing for social and environmental justice. Designed around our new Justice Choir Songbook, which includes 43 songs free for non-profit use, our goal is a grassroots movement to engage in the empathetic, collaborative and collective power of singing together to create positive transformation on a personal, social, local, civic, and – hopefully – national level.

This document outlines five ways to be involved with Justice Choir:

- 1 FOLLOW us.
- 2 SING with a local chapter.
- 3 PROGRAM songs from the Justice Choir Songbook.
- 4 HOST a Justice Choir event (house party, rally, singalong, etc).
- 5 LAUNCH a local chapter.

Thank you for your interest in getting involved. Every voice makes a difference.

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## 1. FOLLOW US

Stay up-to-date on all the latest news, events, and get access to the songs through our social media pages. We rely on your likes and shares to help this music travel far and fast!



**Justice Choir** (National headquarters in St Paul, MN)

Abbie Betinis, Executive Director

Facebook: [@JusticeChoir](#) | Twitter: [@JusticeChoirALL](#) | Website: [www.justicechoir.org](http://www.justicechoir.org)

## 2. SING WITH A LOCAL CHAPTER

Chapters are beginning to pop up around the country. See if there's one near you!



**Justice Choir-Twin Cities** (Minneapolis, MN)

Led by Tesfa Wondemagegnehu – launch: 6/10/17

Facebook: [@JusticeChoirTC](#)



### Justice Choir-Ithaca (NY)

Led by Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum and Sean Linfors (launch: 8/26/17)

Facebook: [@JusticeChoirIthaca](#)



### Justice Choir-San Diego (CA)

Led by Emilie Amrein and Lynn Mendoza-Khan (launch: 9/15/17)

Facebook: [@JusticeChoirSD](#) | Twitter: [@JusticeChoirSD](#)



### Justice Choir-Port Townsend (WA)

Led by Rebecca Rottsolk (launch: 9/22/17)

Facebook: (no custom username yet)



### Justice Choir-Raleigh (NC)

Led by Shannon Gravelle (launch: 10/17/17)

Facebook: [@JusticeChoirRDU](#) | Twitter: [@JusticeChoirRDU](#)



### Justice Choir-Detroit (MI)

Led by Arianne Abela (launch: Jan. 2018)

Facebook: [@JusticeChoirD](#)

## 3. PROGRAM SONGS FROM THE JUSTICE CHOIR SONGBOOK (coming Fall 2017)

Anyone may lead songs from the Justice Choir songbook wherever they like, whenever they like, as long as they 1) share the music freely (you may not profit financially from the songs), and 2) credit the songwriters. These songs are made for learning quickly and singing right away! Lead them in the streets, at marches and rallies, incorporate them into school programs or faith-based services, sing them around the piano with friends, and everything in between.

- **Attribution to the Songwriters:** Please respect the Justice Choir Songbook's Creative Commons "non-commercial use" song license – and credit the songwriters every time you share their music. We couldn't do this without these 43 amazing, new, royalty-free songs. For our songwriters, having their name attached to their songs is part of their payment.
- **Get each new song** as we unveil them on Facebook: [@JusticeChoir](#) and Twitter: [@JusticeChoirALL](#)
- **Where can I see all the songs?** Until the Songbook is ready, here: <http://songs.justicechoir.org/Links>

## 4. HOST A JUSTICE CHOIR EVENT

Anyone can host a Justice Choir event. Events are being planned across the country – many in conjunction with local community organizations, or with community leaders as special guests to help jumpstart conversations about local issues. No permission or approval is necessary to host a Justice Choir event, but we do have some guidelines:

### EVENT GUIDELINES

- **Values:** Non-violent, non-exclusive, open, welcoming, affirming, generous, eco-friendly, and building beloved community. *Singing together is one small piece of a larger puzzle of creating transformation on a local level.*
- **Repertoire:** Reflect the values above. Choose whatever songs you think help the most. We hope you'd use the Songbook somehow, but it's not required.

- **Personnel:** Inclusive, with an “every voice matters” attitude. You can host an event anywhere: on your porch with friends, in a classroom, during a Sunday church service, or marching down the street. Participation may be open to all, or open to a limited group (ex. friends, family, school class, church members, etc). *Note: Events hosted by Justice Choir Community Chapters must be open to all. If desired, events hosted by Student Chapters may be open to students/faculty/staff only.*
- **Leadership:** Inclusive and welcoming. If there are partnerships you can make into diverse and/or marginalized communities, please try to do everything you can to welcome and hear those voices. Co-hosting events with other local organizations is highly encouraged! Justice Choir is all about coming together to form new connections within and between communities. Change doesn't happen if we only sing about it.
- **Accessibility – Physically, Spiritually, Politically, and Vocally:** ADA compliant whenever possible (ex. accessible parking, entrance, restrooms), no religious agenda or faith requirement, no political affiliation required, no singing experience required.
- **Ethical:** respectful of community space, environmentally-conscious (ex. recycle, carpool, etc).
- **EVENT COORDINATION:**
  - **Create a separate Facebook event** for each of your events. ([how to create a Facebook event](#))
  - **Let us know about it** by tagging [@JusticeChoir](#) in your event or sharing it with us. We'll add your event to our Page's national Events listing.
- **Naming your event:** To avoid confusion with Chapters, please don't use a “Justice Choir-[region]” name if you aren't an official chapter. But you can call your event anything else! (*ex. Justice Choir Unity Sing, Justice Choir Sit-In, Sing-In, Rally, Singalong, Mass Chorus, Resistance Sing, etc*)
- **Songwriter Attribution:** Please remember to credit the Songwriter every time you share their music – whether that's a livestream of your event, a video afterward, a page of lyrics on an overhead, etc. We couldn't do this without these 43 amazing, new songs, all royalty-free for non-commercial use. For our songwriters, having their name attached to their songs is part of their payment.
- **Paying the Songwriters:** Please try not to forward the digital Songbook PDF – it guts the songwriter of potential donations from downloaders. Instead, ask colleagues and friends to download from our website and “pay what they can” (that capability is coming soon, and until then, anyone may obtain the scores through the links on this page: <http://songs.justicechoir.org/Links>).
- **Money:** We ask anyone leading an event to understand, respect, and educate others about Justice Choir Songbook's Creative Commons “non-commercial use” song license, which is detailed in the Songbook.
  - *You may not sell the songbooks, even to reimburse printing costs.* Our contract with the songwriters promises that the songs will be given away and never sold. If absolutely necessary, you may take a “pay-what-you-can” donation at your event.
  - In case there's any doubt: Yes, you may certainly sing these songs to help raise money for charitable, non-profit causes.
- **Tag, Tag, Tag:** Remember to tag Justice Choir and to **tag the songwriter** on social media at every opportunity. (They are excited to like and share your performances too!) Our trusted connection to each other is essential for the Justice Choir community to grow.

## 5. LAUNCH A LOCAL CHAPTER

Justice Choir chapters are set up by the national organization, by application of a potential Chapter leader, and then transferred to that Chapter leader to administer. Chapters comprise a certain geographic area (anything from a school or university campus to an entire city or region), and are the local infrastructure of the national organization. **A Chapter is more than a choir that meets to sing together.** It is the mechanism for ongoing conversation, community action, and transformation... using singing as a jumping-off point.

### Benefits of organizing as a Justice Choir Chapter:

- Build on the momentum from your events by cultivating long-lasting local relationships
- Get a unique Justice Choir “shining fist” logo in your desired color, and a matching nameplate with your Chapter’s full name and the “Start Local; Stay Vocal” tagline
- Rally your community through your own official Justice Choir branded Facebook & Twitter pages
- Link to your Chapter and Chapter’s events from the Justice Choir website.
- Editing privileges for the national Justice Choir events calendar (a public Google calendar).
- Access to branded Justice Choir merchandise at discounts.
- Early access to any additional resources (teaching guides, songwriter tours).
- Early access and input on any subsequent Justice Choir Songbook volumes.
- Connection to a growing number of incredible Chapter leaders to swap ideas and suggestions.
- Lots of liking/sharing/retweeting and hullabaloo from our national social media accounts.

### Fees:

- We don’t expect to collect membership fees from chapters, but will likely charge a discounted rate for products if you wanted any, like hard-copy songbooks, or branded merchandise.

### Types of Chapters:

- Community Chapters: small or large, let us know what you’re thinking.
- Student Chapters: campus-wide, student-led. Please list a faculty advisor on your application.

## APPLY TO LEAD A CHAPTER

If you’re ready to organize formally, please send us some details for what you envision for your Chapter’s:

- 1) **Mission:** Our motto is “Start Local, Stay Vocal.” Please list some current local challenges in your region. How could singing together help? How else could you use the songs from the Justice Choir Songbook (or other repertoire) to inspire positive transformation?
- 2) **Leadership:** Who will lead your chapter? We’re especially seeking diversity in leadership. Might you be willing to co-lead a chapter with someone across a perceived barrier in your community? (race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, national origin, etc.) What other roles could you make available, or structure could you put in place, to ensure that your Chapter reflects the true diversity of your larger community?
- 3) **Region / Chapter Name:**
  - What region (school, city, county, etc) and name (“Justice Choir-region”) do you have in mind?
  - What abbreviation would you like to use? These 2 or 3 letters appear in your logo, and identify the region to your local community (perhaps its initials, airport code, or first few letters of its name).
- 4) **Timeline:** When would you ideally like to launch you Chapter? Would you like to experiment with hosting some events first, or launch all at once?

For more information about launching a chapter in your area, or to apply, please email Executive Director Abbie Betinis at [justicechoir@gmail.com](mailto:justicechoir@gmail.com).