

Don Newsom
Candidate for Member-at-Large

I hold a Ph.D. In Engineering from Purdue University. I worked for 28 yr as a research engineer at Argonne National Laboratory, a federal R&D lab near Chicago. I took early retirement to pursue a teaching certificate in secondary math. I have taught or tutored math for 15 yr at an online high school, my local high school, and my local public library.

I have played piano since age 7. Across musical genres, my overall favorite composer is J.S. Bach; for piano solo specifically, F. Chopin. I accompanied church services and choirs regularly from 1978 to 2005, and as a guest pianist since then.

I have sung regularly with church choirs and large community choruses, including: Downers Grove (IL) Choral Society, 1978-2001; Chicago Master Singers, 2001-present; and Orpheus, spring 2019-present. During the Covid pandemic, I have sung with several local and international virtual choirs.

After my retirement and until her passing, my wife, a life-long music teacher, asked me to give lessons to her more advanced piano students. I now live in IL for the summer and fall, and AZ for the winter and spring, thereby continuing to sing with both Chicago Master Singers and Orpheus. I have music studios (acoustic pianos and electronic keyboards) in both homes.

Downers Grove Choral Society – Vice President-Artistic (securing professional soloists); Grants Writer (annual application and reports to the Illinois Arts Council); President

Chicago Master Singers – Member of the Board; Director of Ticketing (managing online ticket sales)

Orpheus – No assigned leadership role; but I consider it my responsibility as a member to do the best I can to be an example and aid to my fellow singers

Vox Caelestis (professional women's chorus in which my wife sang) – Member of the Board (assorted duties as needed)

Ars Viva (professional orchestra accompanying Chicago Master Singers) – Member of the Board (assorted duties as needed)

Downers Grove Community Church – Member of the Board; Youth Sponsor; Choir Director/Accompanist

I am interested in an At Large board seat, because I think my experience may have given me something to offer to help Orpheus. I would decline an Officer position, because to be effective, I think the Officers need to be full-year residents. But knowing that the Bylaws provide for electronic attendance at Board meetings, I could contribute to those meetings even during the time I reside in IL.