Point of Departure Vocal Jazz Constitution

Article I. Mission Statement

Point of Departure is a club that provides students at Berklee College of Music with an opportunity to explore the vocal jazz ensemble venue through practice and performance where it is otherwise not available. We will fulfill these goals by providing a place to practice, performances, and an atmosphere of learning, encouragement and jazz.

Article II. Purpose

This club shall fulfill the following purposes:
- To foster an awareness and acceptance of vocal jazz to students and community members.
- To provide select students with the opportunity to rehearse and perform vocal jazz in venues and concert settings.
- To provide students of Berklee College of Music the opportunity to hear and watch compositions performed.
- To provide Berklee with a vocal ensemble that caters to the needs of a growing number of students looking for traditional jazz outlets through harmony and performance.

Article III. Members

The members of the vocal ensemble and rhythm section of this group will be auditioned. This will take place at an appointed time by the leader and assistant leader of Point of Departure. Any student of Berklee College of Music is eligible to audition for any part of the group. Students who are seeking membership as composers and/or songwriters are eligible for membership with no benefit of travel, performance obligations, or vote in any club business.

Article IV. Officers

Point of Departure has two main officers. They are the Leader and Assistant Leader. Neither member may operate without consulting the other but in the event of an absence,

Duties of the Leader:
- Oversee all meetings and activities of the organization.
- Ensure that all activities are appropriate and coincide with rules and regulations set forth by Berklee College of Music.
- Set up and arrange performance venues.
Duties of Assistant Leader:
  • Assist leader in duties.
  • Direct meetings in case of leader absence.
  • Maintain a correct balance of club funds.

Officers are in duty until graduation or resignation. New officers are chosen by exiting leader and assistant leader and must meet the following criteria:
  • Must have membership for at least 2 semesters
  • Must show leadership skills and be able to act according to the duties listed
  • Must share interests of the club and its mission statement

Article V. Meetings

Meetings will be held at a time that is convenient for members. The group must meet at least once a week for a minimum of two hours. Members are required to attend meetings unless prior arrangements are made. The absence of any member at any two consecutive meetings without communication will result in the loss of membership. The leader and assistant leader have the option to evaluate any members’ progress and participation at any time.

Article VI. Advisor

The faculty advisor of Point of Departure serves the following purposes:
  • To share professional and personal knowledge of musical endeavors with leadership and group members.
  • To help student leadership with concerns or questions regarding musical pursuits.
  • To help foster a positive relationship between faculty and students of the group.
  • To be aware of opportunities for the group and promote them when possible.
  • Encourage growth within the group and monitor success through recordings and/or visits to rehearsals and performances.

Article VII. Club Membership

Club membership is open to all Berklee students. Point of Departure has two kinds of membership. Any part of the performing group (such as vocalists, rhythm section, sound technicians) are awarded by audition only and must attend rehearsals. General membership may include but is not limited to composers, song writers, and any student with general interest in the group. General members are allowed in rehearsal only with permission and are not eligible for travel benefits and/or money that is dedicated to the groups musical enhancement.