

# CHORAL GROUP PROFILE

## UUCB CHOIR

### **Description**

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo (UUCB) Choir has a legacy of both providing high-level musical offerings for Sunday services at the UU Church of Buffalo, as well as performing at other special events around town.

### **Director**

**Jessie Downs** is an operatic soprano, composer, conductor, and pedagogue who has served as the Music Director for the UU Church of Buffalo since Fall 2021, and served as UUCB's Soprano Soloist from 2016 until her directorial appointment. Jessie grew up in NJ, earned a BMus at Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio in 2013, and received her PhD in Music Composition in 2021 from UB. As a director, Jessie strives to develop singers' voices and expose them to a variety of different musical styles.

### **Rehearsal Time and Location:**

Thursdays 7:30-9:45pm

The UU Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Avenue

### **Annual Events**

The choir sings in church services about every-other week. They also perform larger works at special "Music Weekend" events. Recent works featured on these events include Handel's *Messiah*, Poulenc's *Stabat Mater*, Schumann's *Doppelchorige Gesänge*, and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. In Fall 2023 they will be working on Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*. They also perform at special community events around Elmwood Village such as the Christmas tree lighting and Elmwood Arts Festival.

### **Audition/Contact Information**

No audition is required, but singing experience is recommended. While we sometimes do works that are learnable by ear, most members of the choir have some music reading ability. Contact Dr. Jessie Downs for more information ([jdowns@buffalouu.org](mailto:jdowns@buffalouu.org)) or show up to one of our weekly Thursday evening rehearsals.