

CHAPTER 11

17 IN THIS VOLUME

Voices for the Fallen.

SINGERS & VOCALISTS COORDINATOR

A soloist at a police funeral is a memory the family carries forever – the national anthem, "Amazing Grace" at the committal, "The Lord's Prayer" at the closing.

The Singers & Vocalists Coordinator manages the people behind those moments: confirming selections, scheduling rehearsal, arranging sound reinforcement, reserving parking and seating, and making payment arrangements. The technical standard is the same as a professional performance – but the emotional context is far heavier, and the coordinator makes sure the singers can simply sing.

Every soloist needs a backup. Voice strain, grief, laryngitis, or a family emergency can take out a soloist an hour before the service.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE – FROM AGENCIES WHO HAVE DONE THIS

- 01 **Every soloist needs a backup.** Voice strain, grief, laryngitis, or a family emergency can take out a soloist an hour before the service. The backup is rehearsed and present.
- 02 **Two microphones. Always.** One mic fails, the other is live. The congregation never knows.
- 03 **Rehearse in the room.** A voice trained in a carpeted studio is a different instrument in a stone sanctuary.
- 04 **Warm the voice before the procession.** The singer waits, sometimes for hours. Quiet room, water, place to vocalize privately.
- 05 **The national anthem is its own animal.** Hardest song to sing under pressure, often the first thing services open with. Assign your steadiest vocalist.
- 06 **Pay them and feed them.** Same standard as musicians.
- 07 **Thank the singer afterward, plainly.** When a vocalist gets through the hardest song of their life on live television with no room for error, tell them — afterward — that they did it beautifully.

MODERN CONSIDERATIONS • 2026

- **Performance-rights verification.** Copyrighted songs on livestream require licenses (CCLI or individual).
- **Recording-rights agreement.** Vocalists told whether their performance will appear on archive.
- **Digital lyric sheets.** Tablet / iPad option; backup printed.
- **Electronic payment.** Zelle, Venmo, direct deposit; W-9 in advance.
- **Backup soloist named in writing.** Already rehearsed and standing by.

TURN THE PAGE FOR THE CHECKLIST →

CHECKLIST 11 • HONORING THE FALLEN

Singers & Vocalists Coordinator checklist.

A working one-page reference. Begin at first assignment; complete through service close.

SETUP

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| ☐ Confirm song selections with family and clergy. | ☐ Lock Order of Service. |
| ☐ Confirm vocalists (soloists, choir, ensemble). | ☐ Confirm rehearsal with Musicians Coordinator and church. |
| ☐ Confirm sound technician and mic assignments. | ☐ Confirm parking, seating, and payment. |
| ☐ Backup soloist named and rehearsed. | ☐ Review interment performances with Honor Guard. |

REHEARSAL & EQUIPMENT

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| ☐ Rehearsal time and location set. | ☐ Number of singers confirmed. |
| ☐ Equipment (mic stands, monitors, playback, lyric sheets). | ☐ Performance location and seating set. |
| ☐ Accompaniment source (live piano, organ, track, a cappella). | ☐ Sound check at live volume. |
| ☐ Wireless frequencies de-conflicted with press. | ☐ Vocal warm-up room reserved. |

INTERMENT & POST-SERVICE

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| ☐ Performing at interment? Selections agreed. | ☐ Time of arrival and parking reserved. |
| ☐ Performance location identified. | ☐ Equipment for outdoor (battery mic, weather cover). |
| ☐ Wind / cold / heat plan for voice. | ☐ Coordination with Honor Guard and Musicians. |
| ☐ Payment delivered at load-out. | ☐ Thank-you note within 7 days. |