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## **Audition Guidelines**

An audition will take about 10 minutes to complete and consists of two main parts:

1. A prepared solo that you will perform with piano accompaniment
2. A musicianship portion where we will assess your sight-singing, rhythmic skills, and tonal memory

Singers interested in auditioning for our select chamber choir, the Virtuosi, will have additional requirements.

See below for more detailed information.

### **Prepared Solo**

#### **OPTION 1:**

Prepare the following excerpt using the resources below and your own skills as a choral singer.

- Select the voice part that most suits your voice right now.
- Follow all of the dynamics, articulations, breaths, and markings in the score.
- No memorization necessary.
- We may also ask to vocalize you to get a better sense for your individual voice and help to place you in the right section.

A pianist will be provided free of charge.

#### **From Bach *Mass in B Minor* (BWV 232) “Patrem omnipotentem”**

[Marked Score - Soprano](#)

[Marked Score - Tenor](#)

[Marked Score - Alto](#)

[Marked Score - Bass](#)

#### **Practice Tracks**

No. 14 “Patrem omnipotentem”

<https://www.cyberbass.org/Major Works/Bach J S/bach js b minor mass.htm>

- OR -

### **OPTION 2:**

Bring a solo of your own choosing within the following parameters:

- No more than 2-3 minutes long (a cut from a longer piece is fine)
- It must have piano accompaniment
- You may sing any kind of classical repertoire, musical theater, or something like a hymn
  - No pop or jazz, please
- It does not need to be memorized

### **Sight Singing**

You will be given a melody and a rhythm to sight read without piano accompaniment. We will give you your starting pitch.

You may also be asked to sing back a series of 4-5 notes to evaluate your pitch memory.

*Why do I have to do this?*

- This is a chance to understand more about how you process music, as well as your training and experience as a singer. It shows us how you interpret musical notation, how you can recall pitches and rhythms, and your process for learning new music. It's great if you can just sight-read whatever you see, but that's not necessarily the point.
- If the excerpt is too difficult, the staff will help to coach you through it like you might experience in a chorus rehearsal.

### **MCTB Virtuosi Chamber Choir - Additional Audition Materials**

- Sing up or down a major/minor 2nd, major/minor 3rd, perfect 4th, tritone or perfect 5th from any starting note.
- Sight reading

### **Who are the Virtuosi?**

Our select chamber choir of experienced choral singers who perform as their own independent group presenting concerts throughout the season, and occasionally serve as a featured ensemble in concerts with the TFO.

This group meets on a project basis, with a weekend of intensive rehearsals just prior to the concert. Singers are expected to learn their music independently in advance of each project.

### **FAQ**

## How is my audition evaluated?

### Voice & Tone

- Clear tone
- Notes are precise and in tune
- Registers are balanced (bottom and top notes sound connected)
- Voice adapts to suit the repertoire and style

### General Musicianship

- Innate sense of rhythm
- Accurate pitches in prepared solo
- Good intonation
- Observation of all dynamics, articulations, markings in the score

### Sight Singing

- Underlying rhythmic pulse
- Ability to understand and make sense of notated music
- Able to continue sight-reading in spite of mistakes
- Skill at quickly fixing missed notes/rhythms in subsequent performances

### Demeanor

- Kind, authentic to yourself, and respectful to staff and volunteers

**Remember: We are cheering for you and want to see you succeed!**

## What are you looking for in a singer?

- Commitment to the ensemble
- Excitement about performing great repertoire
- High artistic standards and a willingness to practice outside rehearsal to maintain them
- Growth mindset
- Great work ethic
- Kindness
- Flexibility

**Singers are expected to commit to the complete concert season.**

## What things DON'T matter in my audition?

- The “type” of voice you have (big/small, loud/soft, bright/dark) We want all different kinds of voices!
- Sight-reading *perfectly* (You need to demonstrate some skill in reading music, but it doesn't have to be perfect the first time)
- What you wear to the audition
- If you have a music degree or not
- How long it's been since you last sang in a choir

## Does it cost anything to participate?

All singers pay \$250 yearly dues (newly reduced fee effective starting 2023-24 season) and are responsible for purchasing concert attire, a black concert folder, and their music.

**Your finances should NEVER prevent you from singing with us! If you're concerned about the cost to participate, we have ample scholarships available. Contact the office for more information.**

### *Why should I pay for this?*

Aside from the fact that singing has many proven benefits for your [mental, social, and physical health](#), each rehearsal costs about the same as a McDonald's Big Mac meal or a Grande Oat Milk Latte from Starbucks. Compare this experience to...

- One Bucs ticket + parking for one person - \$146
- A 3 credit class for one semester at HCC - \$312
- One ticket to Busch Gardens - \$99

These fees - in addition to grants, philanthropic support and ticket sales - supplement the costs of running the ensemble and producing extraordinary concerts each season.