

The Woodlands Show Chorus -- Audition Process

The following information describes the audition procedure for The Woodlands Show Chorus.

The Audition Process

The purpose of the audition process is to determine a prospective member's ability to learn the notes, words, and rhythms of the audition song correctly, her ability to be trained to sing with good vocal skills, and her ability to perform with appropriate facial expressions. To accomplish this purpose, we follow this process:

- A membership committee person informs a first-time guest that, starting from the time the guest takes our audition materials and learning media, she will have four weeks to audition.
- If she does not pass the audition, she can audition a second time within two weeks from the first audition. If she does not pass the second audition, she must wait one year before becoming a prospective member again.
- Each prospective member is expected to learn the audition song using the sheet music and learning tracks. A practice quartet may or may not be provided, depending on her perceived progress (as determined by the audition team chair).
- Each prospective member is expected to sing with the chorus on the risers. That is their practice time. This approach results in TWSC singers who can keep up with our fast pace; it also allows us to see how quickly the prospective member learns and how she functions when nervous.

Note: The current Audition Team consists of the demonstration quartet (currently 5 O'clock Somewhere!) and Janie Macchiaroli (assistant director).

The audition consists of:

1. An audition team member tests the prospective member's vocal range using a piano/keyboard.
2. The audition team member asks the prospective member if she can read music -- just to learn about her past musical training, if any.
3. The audition team member asks the prospective member to match some tones (one at a time) by listening as the audition team member plays each note on a piano or sings each note. The auditionee repeats each note after hearing it played or sung. Then the audition team member plays (or sings) a pattern of intervals and requests the prospective member to repeat the intervals correctly. The interval patterns will assist in determining the prospective member's ear training abilities. The interval patterns will be something such as 1-3-5-3-1 and then make them more challenging, such as 1-4-6-7-6 (as an example).

4. The prospective member may be asked to sing one verse of “Happy Birthday” (or other such simple song) alone after the audition team member gives her the beginning pitch. The Audition Team member listens and analyzes her vocal quality, pitch accuracy, and so on. An Audition Team member also watches the auditionee’s performance from a visual perspective (facial expressions, body language, etc.). The purpose of the visual analysis is to assess the auditionee’s current level of ability to perform.
5. The prospective member sings the audition song in a quartet.
6. The Audition Team discusses the prospective member once she has completed the above steps and has left the room. They decide whether the auditionee has passed the audition. If she passes, an audition team member goes and congratulates her and tells her that she passed. If she didn’t pass, the team member tells her that she must try again (second audition) or that she must wait one year to start the process again.

Note: The Audition Team consists of the demonstration quartet (currently 5 O’clock Somewhere!) and Janie Macchiaroli (assistant director).

Additional Steps

1. Once a prospective member passes the audition, her name and the audition results are then brought to the Management Team for approval.
2. Once approved by the Management Team, a membership committee member sends an announcement to the chorus, stating that the prospective member has passed her audition.
3. The chorus members have 6 days (before the next chorus rehearsal) to express any input – positive or negative – about the prospective member.
4. Once any input is collected, the Management Team recommends or doesn’t recommend the prospective member for membership. We will not publicly discuss prospective members. If someone has some feedback to offer, she must speak up.
5. We will go through the process of voting to accept the prospective member; however, it’s a foregone conclusion that someone who successfully completes the preceding steps will receive a unanimous “yes” vote.