

Dear singer:

Thank you for your interest in Central City Chorus! I am Stephen Black, the conductor, and I would like to inform you of the audition requirements. The audition itself lasts fifteen minutes.

The audition begins with some vocalizing, which allows you to warm up your voice, and allows me to hear different registers of your voice. Then I will ask you to sing a short selection for me. This should be one to three minutes long. If your native language is NOT English, please come prepared to sing a selection in English. Otherwise, it would be helpful to me if you could bring something to sing in a language other than English, though this is not mandatory. Your selection may be accompanied or a cappella. You do not need to provide your own accompanist.

The audition continues with one or two pitch matching and/or pitch-recognition exercises. Finally there is a sight-reading component. If you would like to prepare for the sight-reading, you might visit www.jsbchorales.net/bwv.shtml for score and sound samples. This is an archive of Bach chorales. (You'll need to pick a chorale out of the many that are on the site, and then download both the .pdf score file and the midi or quicktime sound file.) Generally singers are the most anxious about their sight-reading ability. I don't expect all our singers in the chorus to be ace sight-readers! However, you should have some music reading ability to be considered for the chorus.

Nearly everyone who auditions is nervous to some degree, and I want you to know that I take that into account as I'm running the audition. Anxiety can be especially difficult for singers, as the first thing to disappear when a case of nerves strikes is breath control. So remember to take a few long, controlled breaths before your audition, and you'll be fine!

Finally, please come ten minutes before your scheduled audition time to fill out a membership form. Again, many thanks for your interest, and I look forward to meeting and hearing you!

Stephen Black
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