

2018-2019 Choral Auditions

Important Guidelines for Auditions for Advanced Ensembles (Concert Choir and Cantata)

Please read carefully.

WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO PLACEMENT IN ADVANCED ENSEMBLES?

The number one factor for admission will be your **work habits**:

- Professional disposition: being on the risers on time, paying attention and doing your best work
- Being an active contributor: singing every day to your best ability, participating in discussions, taking notes, and staying on top of music-learning
- Kindness and thoughtfulness: to yourself and to all others

The second factor will be your **preparedness**:

- In the audition, are the excerpts prepared, accurate, musical, and beautiful?
- Over this past year, have you been prepared in your daily work?

The third factor will be your **musicianship**:

- Do you demonstrate a sufficiently high level of skill in either aural capacity (singing back what you hear) or sight-reading?
- Do you sing with excellent pitch accuracy and musicality?

And, lastly, your **vocalism**:

- Do you demonstrate a healthy, warm sound that has vibrancy and flexibility?

In other words, the quality of your vocal phonation is the *smallest* factor, and the quality of your daily work is the *largest* factor in determining placement in an advanced ensemble.

WHAT IS THE AUDITION PROCESS?

Round 1: May 29-June 1, we will hear returning students. Your audition will consist of:

- Singing three (short) prepared excerpts
- Brief tonal-memory and sight-reading exercises
- We may choose to explore your vocal range.

Round 2: Monday-Wednesday of Week 1 in Fall Term, we will hear all new potential advanced ensemble singers in call-back auditions with others. Here our focus will be on how each individual works and sings within the section and ensemble.

Factors that Help an Audition:

- Signing up for an earlier time (not waiting until the last day)
- Coming in calm and focused
- Having the excerpts very well prepared, sung with musicality and expressivity

Who Should Audition for Advanced Ensembles?

- *Any* Lawrentian who loves to sing with others at the highest possible level
- *Any* Lawrentian willing to work hard four hours a week to achieve the highest level of artistry
- *Any* Lawrentian who is committed to the choral experience as a significant part of their education

What is the Audition Process for Viking Chorale?

Viking Chorale, as well, is open to *any* Lawrentian. Chorale meets only two hours a week, so it is a stronger fit for:

- Students who are juggling especially rigorous academic commitments with their desire to participate in choir
- Students who are juggling especially rigorous vocal demands who do not feel that their voices can consistently sustain four hours of advanced singing
- If you have already sung in choir and wish to be in Viking Chorale, simply email the directors to communicate your interest in Viking Chorale.
- If you have never sung in choir here, please sign up for an audition time. At your audition, we will chat for a few minutes and vocalize your range; there is no need to prepare excerpts (though you are welcome to).