

## Chorus Audition Information

The Chicago Symphony Chorus holds auditions for new members each year, typically in early February. Please note that auditions for the 2018-19 season will be held in mid-January 2018, with online applications and audition dates posted in mid-December.

To apply for an audition, applicants must fill out the online audition application form and submit a \$20 refundable deposit check made out to Chicago Symphony Chorus (no cash please) to the address below prior to the application deadline. Incomplete applications will not be accepted past the deadline. An application is complete when we have received both the online application and the deposit check. If you choose to hand deliver your check please leave it with the security guard at the 67 E. Adams entrance (please do not give checks to the box office).

Chicago Symphony Chorus  
Attn: Chorus Auditions  
220 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60604

Checks will be held uncashed; the deposit will be returned when you check-in for your audition or upon notice of your cancellation, provided that you cancel at least 24 hours prior to your assigned audition time.

Audition candidates are asked to exhibit their range and flexibility by singing two selections of contrasting style and tempo. Selections may be either art songs or arias and should demonstrate the expressive range and flexibility of the voice, especially with regard to dynamics and vibrato. When offering opera arias singers are strongly encouraged (but not required) to sing from memory, demonstrating an understanding of the text and a clear projection of the character. One piece must be sung in English and the other in a foreign language. Each piece should be a maximum of 3 (three) minutes in duration. If your piece is longer than 3 (three) minutes, please make appropriate cuts.

In addition to your selections, you will also be asked to sing:

1. An excerpt from standard choral repertoire, which will be sent via email with your assigned audition date/time.
2. A sight-reading exercise.
3. A chromatic scale, ascending from Do to Sol, then descending from Sol to Do. You may sing this on any syllable(s) you choose, though we ask that each syllable begin with a consonant, for example: doh-dah-doh-dah, or tee-tah-tee-tah, or solfege syllables. This gives each pitch a clear beginning to help you achieve good intonation.

All auditions will be accompanied by a Chicago Symphony Chorus staff pianist. Please remember to bring copies of both of your pieces for the accompanist. The accompanist's copy must be in the key in which the piece will be performed. Please be sure that photocopies are clear, cuts are clearly marked, and that the music is placed in a three-ring binder. No loose pages, please.

**Please note that as of 2015, it is policy of the Chicago Symphony Chorus that an applicant who has auditioned three or more times in the past seven years and has not been offered a position must wait three years since the date of his/her most recent audition before being granted another audition.**

Please feel free to contact Chorus staff at [chorus@csso.org](mailto:chorus@csso.org) at any time throughout the year.