**WELCOME!**

**We’re glad you’ve chosen to visit XX Chorus**

**Your First Visit**

On your first visit you will have an opportunity to watch and listen to the chorus and be invited to participate with us on the risers during vocal warm-ups. If you choose to, we’ll find you a place to stand and will invite you to SING along!

You will also be invited to have an individual voice part analysis (it’s free and it’s friendly!) with either our Music Director or Assistant Director so that we can determine which of our four-part harmony sections is most appropriate for you to sing.

If we’re singing a familiar song, you may want to sing along - after all, you love to sing! We empathize, really we do, but *RESIST THE URGE... please*. We ask this out of respect for the hard work our members have put into learning the music accurately and with our director’s interpretation. In future weeks, once you have spent time learning one of our repertoire songs, you are *welcome* to join in singing whenever we are working on that song. You will be put on the risers next to someone who also sings your part. The practice of “doing focused work with the music before we sing it with the group” is one that all our members live by out of respect for the team’s need to keep moving forward.

The only time we would ask you to step off the risers completely is when we’re going to do “full performance mode” or if we’re drilling choreography. That’s for your own safety - you’ll want to be well out of the way when we start moving!

We hope that you enjoy the visit and that it inspires you to consider ongoing membership in this unique group. It’s fun, it’s challenging and it’s rewarding.

Enjoy your visit!

**Audition Process**

Each prospective chorus member has an audition she must pass before becoming a full member of the chorus. Don't worry, you'll be given plenty of time to prepare and practice sessions before the real thing. Our process involves six steps over 8 weeks:

**The Voice Part Analysis (Week 1)**

 This preliminary ‘listen’ helps our director decide whether your voice wants to sing Tenor, Lead, Baritone or Bass. Our Director or Assistant Director will do this with you. They will give you some information about the audition process and about our musical requirements and expectations. They also look forward to getting to know more about you!

**The Learning Phase (Weeks 2 - 4)**

 You’ll be receive the sheet music & learning track for the audition piece, along with a sheet describing a process for learning the correct notes, words, rhythms and breaths of a song. Please use this process at home. For the next few weeks, you’ll sing the song for your section leader at rehearsals. You’ll sing solo for her in Week 2 and against another part in Week 3. In week 4, you’ll sing with all three other parts. These are NOT auditions! Your section leader is there to offer feedback and help toward a successful audition. This is essentially the same process you will use for every song you ever learn as a Circle of Harmony member.

**The Information Phase (Weeks 1 - 6)**

 This phase offers you a chance to learn about the chorus. You’ll meet with our Membership Chair, our Director, your Section Leader, our President and our Treasurer. These chorus leaders will share information with you about our chorus culture, our musical expectations, time and financial commitments, and upcoming events. You’ll also be assigned a “riser buddy” after the first few weeks. She’ll be in your section, you’ll stand with her on the risers, and she’ll help you to know where to go & what to do. During this time, please ask lots of questions and connect with your section leader regularly!

**The Audition Phase (Weeks 4 & 5)**

 When you sing in the “quartet” situation in Week 4, we call it your “practice audition.” We create the exact situation you’ll have for your audition the following week, making the “real” audition more familiar and comfortable. At the practice, we’ll identify any remaining note or word errors and give you some help (just as in the previous two weeks) so you can correct them.

 In the “real” audition, we are listening for note and word accuracy, good rhythmic and breath accuracy, the ability to hold your part against the other parts, and a basic potential to tune with the other notes in the chord. We certainly don’t expect vocal excellence - we’re all working on that for the rest of our lives - this is about *potential*. And we want you to be successful! We will notify you within the next two days with your results.

 ***When you successfully pass the audition, you have qualified to be a member of our chorus.*** You will be given the next pieces of music which the chorus is learning, and will join in more fully in chorus life over the next 4 weeks before you officially become a member.

**The Integration Phase (Weeks 5 - 8)**

 These next few weeks really give you an opportunity participate fully in section practices, learn choreography as it’s taught, to learn at the going pace. In short, you get to see what it’s *really* like! We’re making a pretty big financial and time commitment to each other, so we want you to make an informed decision. By Week 6, we hope that you’ll be informed enough to ask your own questions in a Q&A forum: we encourage you to ask *anything*. At the end of this phase, if you think this is something you want to do, you’ll fill out forms, and pay fees.