

Prospective Member Fact Sheet

About Auditions

Open auditions are held on select Tuesdays at the beginning of our Fall and Spring seasons in conjunction with our Guest Nights. Our Guest Nights and Auditions for Spring 2021 are planned for Tuesday January 11th and Tuesday January 18th at 6:30 pm at the Singers regular rehearsal location, Lincolnia Senior Center. You only need to attend one and we ask that you make an appointment by filling out an online application at <https://alexandriasingers.com/audition-inquiry>. Please contact our Membership VPs with any questions by emailing audition@alexandriasingers.com. We're modifying the audition process so that all participants are guaranteed to have the opportunity to audition for the Singers. All applicants are asked to submit an online audition video, so that in the event COVID-19 protocols require our Guest Nights and Auditions be held virtually via Zoom our panel will already have your submissions in hand prior to meeting with you. We ask that you upload your video by January 7th, 5pm EST. Complete instructions for recording and submitting your video will be provided by the Membership team when you make your appointment.

When you arrive for your appointment, we'll provide a short orientation, including our plans for the coming year, and answer any questions you might have. Following that, all perspective members will "sit in", warmup, and sing along with us through an abbreviated rehearsal. You will also have the opportunity to see the Singers perform, so that you can get an idea of what we do. The audition process takes approx. 15 minutes and has two components: singing and choreography. For the choreography segment, you do not need to prepare anything. The Creative Director will teach you some basic choreography steps, and this segment is typically done as a group standing among the chorus as we learn or refresh a piece. The singing portion of the audition will take place at the end of rehearsal, and each prospective member will meet individually with our panel. As your video will already have been reviewed by our panel, your individual, in-person audition will be a short interview with our Music Director, Creative Director and President, as well as any vocal range testing, sight singing, or other exercises that the Music Director may decide to do. You will not be asked to sing your chosen audition song again. (although a plus, sight-reading is not a requirement). After the full audition cycle is complete, you will be notified by the Membership VPs as to whether you have been accepted as a member of The Alexandria Singers.

Rehearsals

The Alexandria Singers are planning for in-person rehearsals. More detailed information about COVID-19 policies and procedures can be found on our website. Singers rehearse from 7-9:30 p.m. every Tuesday from Sept-June, at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St., Alexandria, VA 22312. Once a month a Saturday rehearsal is held from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. These locations vary, and will be posted on the member section of our website. In preparation for a major performance, additional rehearsals may be scheduled at the discretion of the Creative Team (Music and Creative Directors).

Music

Music is purchased through the Singers. The Singers have a small standing repertoire, as well as additional music for each major production. Music is fully memorized and a portion of our songs are choreographed.

Expectations

As the DC area's premier pops chorus, we all bear a responsibility to learn and memorize our music, learn and perfect the choreography movements, and develop a solid stage presence. Every effort will be made to assist you with these goals. Sheet Music will be purchased at the beginning of the season and learning media for your voice part will be available on the member portal of the Singers website at AlexandriaSingers.com. The website is the primary source of information for members. It provides communication & calendars, as well as rehearsal tools like recorded learning media and choreography videos, for learning on your own. In order to maintain the high quality of our performance, the Creative Team, at their discretion, will evaluate each Singers' readiness, in either large or small group settings, in advance of a major production. Feedback from these evaluations is intended to be constructive, and the support network of Singers and the Creative Team will do their utmost to ensure that *everyone* succeeds.

As a 501(C)(3) educational organization, the Singers relies on its members to offer their time and talents towards the general operations of the organization. The Singers have launched a volunteer initiative program to provide a more effective structure for members to contribute to the organization's needs by volunteering to perform tasks that fit their skills. Each chosen task is assigned a points value, which is earned upon completion of the chosen task. The Volunteer Points goal can also be met with a combination of tasks and ticket sales.

Concerts/Productions

We have an active concert schedule, which includes three large scale productions and several public and private performances each year. The Singers' goal is financial self-sufficiency through the one thing we love to do, performing! Although we have a few major fundraisers throughout the year, we seek out paid performance opportunities as a primary source of revenue. As a Singers member, we expect you to make all possible arrangements to attend as many gigs as possible. Each individual member's hard work and joy contributes to the success of our organization and performances.

Fund-Raising

As mentioned above, we have a few major fund-raising events each year. The two biggest include Spring2ACTion, a City-wide online day of giving event, and the online auction event associated with our Spring Show. We ask each member, under the guidance of our Development VP, help us reach our budgeted goals for these two major events through sharing of all marketing tools, reaching out to contacts, solicitation or donation of auction items, and your volunteer efforts. Rather than multiple sales efforts throughout the year that burden our membership, we focus on raising additional funds through concert ticket sales, honoraria from contracted performances, corporate and individual donations, membership dues, sponsorship/ad sales, and grants (including an award from the City of Alexandria through the Alexandria Commission for the Arts). We are always looking for new ideas and resources! If you'd like to assist with fund raising or have connections with corporate or private grants, please speak with our Development VP or contact:

development@alexandriasingers.com

Member Expenses

Dues: \$125.00 per year (pro-rated by season based on the date you join). \$75.00 per year for members 25 years old and under (pro-rated by season based on the date you join).

Music: Approximately \$20 - \$25 each season (September and January) for returning Singers. First year Singers will be purchasing more music, including repertoire pieces, for a cost of approximately \$35 - \$40.

Costumes: Costume requirements will vary for each performance at minimal cost, if any, to Singers members. Pro-tip: Our signature color is a Royal/Cobalt blue we refer to as "Singers blue." A majority of our performance attire is made up of items of this color, should you see some in season or on sale it's wise to have a few pieces ready to go!

Concert Ticket Sales: Each Singer must sell \$100 worth of tickets for each major production. This helps us achieve our minimum budgeted goal and offsets membership expenses without an increase in dues.

Our goal is to provide an opportunity for all to sing. If these expenses are a hardship, feel free to speak with the President or Membership VPs to discuss alternatives/arrangements.