

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 2024 will be held on Tuesday January 16th and Tuesday January 23rd 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. When you arrive, we'll provide a short orientation, including our plans for the coming year, and answer any questions you might have. Following that, all prospective 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. The Music Director requests that you bring a prepared song to sing, with sheet music for the accompanist. (You can bring a recorded track to sing along with, if you prefer, provided that there are no vocals on the recording.) We will have a Bluetooth speaker to plug a device into.) If you do not have a prepared piece, you may sing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee". Our director may then guide you through testing your vocal range and a few simple vocal exercises. 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. 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 can 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 for free 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 a large or small group setting, 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. Pre-pandemic, the Singers 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. While this initiative has been on hold during the pandemic, and we don't know that the specifics will look the same when it is reinstated, all Singers are asked to contribute where their time and talents allow. Many hands make light work and will keep the Singers running smoothly!

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. 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.

*The Alexandria Singers has adapted its operations for the 2022-23 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will continue to adjust as events unfold. Any changes to the requirements and expectations for membership, as a result of these adjustments, will be communicated to the membership as decisions are made. We remain committed to fulfilling the Singers' mission of Artistry, Education and Service for our Members and our Community.



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." Most 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 is encouraged to share information about our concerts, using the tools provided, in order to fill as many seats as possible. 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.