

UWL CONCERT CHOIR AUDITIONS - 2024

Dear New and Returning Student Musicians,

I am really looking forward to this coming year and seeing so many new and returning faces! I am SO looking forward to coming together and making music!

The following information is regarding the auditions for Concert Choir for the coming year. Don't let the length of the information scare you, it's just very detailed. However, if you still have further questions, please don't hesitate to email me after reading!

AUDITIONS

All returning and prospective Concert Choir members MUST participate in auditions.

Auditions for Concert Choir will take place on Saturday, August 31st between 10am-4pm AND Sunday September 1st from 1pm-4pm Please select a 10-minute audition time slot using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA4AD2FA4F5C61-50937592-concert>

After the initial auditions, there will be a separate callback for those invited, during the first concert choir class (Wednesday, September 4th).

Both the audition and the callback will take place in Center for the Arts Room 58 in the lowest level of the building.

The Audition will be in 2 parts:

PART 1: Singing and Sight-Reading (Saturday, August 31st /Sunday September 1st)

A) Singing

For the initial audition, I would like you to sing a classical solo song. If you are a music major and have done a jury or participated in solo and ensemble in high school, any of these pieces would be great, preferably an art song or an aria. If you are not a music major or have never sung or worked on a classical solo before, you are more than

welcome to come in and sing a folk song that you may know (ie. Danny Boy, Amazing Grace, Shenandoah etc.). More than anything, I want to hear the timbre of your voice.

- The music does NOT need to be memorized.
- An accompanist will NOT be provided this year, so you should prepare to sing your music a cappella. If this means you'd rather sing something simpler, even as a music major, that's totally fine with me.

What I am listening for: You to come prepared with something to sing and to try your best.

B) Sight-Reading

After performing your piece, I will ask you to sight-read a short excerpt.

- I will give you the starting pitch and outlining chord, about 45 seconds to look at the example. Then, I'll give you your pitch again, and then ask you to sing through the short example.

What I am listening for: You to try your best. Sight-Reading is hard for most people and very few people consider themselves very good at it. I know this. It's even hard for me! I just want to see where you are currently, so no need to stress over it.

PART 2: Callbacks (Wednesday, September 4th)

- Sometime on Sunday evening, I will send out an email with the list of those who I would like to hear at the callback. The list will likely be greater than who will eventually be in the group, but less than the number of singers who auditioned.
- Attached to the email will be a short choir piece for you to prepare BEFORE your callback. It will be in English.
- If you are on the callback list, please have your part learned BEFORE the time callbacks begin! I will be sure to select a piece that is easy to find on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube if playing through your part on piano is not easy for you.
- At callbacks, we will sing the piece mixed a couple of times together and after that, I will likely ask to hear you sing 1 or 2 on a part so I can better hear how well you know the piece and are working with those around you.

What I am listening for: I want to hear how quickly you can learn a simple a cappella piece in a short time without me. I also want to hear how well you can sing with others in small group setting instead of as a soloist as I heard in the initial audition.

Then, by Thursday, September 5th I will email a new list with the final roster of Concert Choir. If you are on the list, I will look forward to seeing you on Friday at rehearsal! If you are not, I hope you will still keep singing in one of our other ensembles!

I know this is a lot, so if you have any questions, feel free to email me at chathaway@uwlax.edu. There is no need to be overwhelmed, I know you will all be great! I really am looking forward to making music with you this year!!

Christopher Hathaway, Director