

UWL CONCERT CHOIR AUDITIONS - 2023

Dear New and Returning Student Musicians,

I am really looking forward to this coming year and seeing so many new and returning faces! As we are now back in full swing post-pandemic, we have so much to look forward to this year and I am really looking forward to making music with you all again so soon!

The following information is regarding the auditions for Concert Choir for the 2023-2024 year. My detailed information is intended to inform you, so please don't let the length of this information scare you, 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, September 2nd between 10am-4pm AND Sunday September 3rd from 1pm-4pm Please select a 10-minute audition time slot using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA4AD2FA4F5C61-concert>

After the initial auditions, there will be a separate callback for those invited, during the first concert choir class (Wednesday, September 6th).

Both the audition and the callback will take place in the Lowe Center for the Arts Room 58 in the lowest level of the building. Practice rooms will be available for warm-ups.

All students who are registered for the class will be able to get into the building using the swipe access with your student ID. If you are struggling to figure this out, we will have upperclassmen roaming the building and checking the doors periodically.

The Audition will be in 2 parts:

PART 1: Singing and Sight-Reading (Saturday, September 2nd /Sunday September 3rd)

A) Singing

For the initial audition, I would like you to sing a classical solo song (any language, about 2-3 minutes long). 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 is NOT provided.
- Prepare to sing your music a cappella or with a recorded accompaniment on your phone (if you prefer). If not having an accompanist means you'd rather sing something simpler like a folk song, even as a music major, that's totally fine with me.

What I am listening for: You are 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, outlining chord, and about 45 seconds to look at the example. Then, I'll give you your pitch again, and ask you to sing through the short example.

What I am listening for: Try your best. Sight-Reading is hard for most people and 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 6th)

- Sometime on Sunday evening, I will send out an email invitation to the singers who I would like to hear at the callbacks. The list of students will likely be greater than who will eventually be in the group, but fewer than the number of singers who auditioned on Saturday/Sunday.
- Attached to the email invitation 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, all of the callback singers will sing the piece mixed a couple of times together and after that, I will likely ask to hear you 1 or 2 singers on a part so I can better hear how well you know the piece and are blending 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.

By Thursday, September 7th, 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, 12:05 PM at rehearsal in Room 58!

If you are not on the final roster, please make sure to drop MUS 106 from your schedule, but I hope you will keep singing in one of our other choirs here at UWL! For instructions on how to drop, please see this link. <https://www.uwlax.edu/globalassets/offices-services/wings-help/students/dropping-in-wings.pdf>

MUS 123 Treble Chorus (SSA voices, meets 2:15-3:40 on MW in Room 58)

MUS 158 Choral Union (SATB community/college choir who sing a longer work, usually like a requiem or cantata, meets 7-9 on Monday evenings in Room 58)

MUS 161-09 Contemporary/Jazz Vocal Ensemble (all voices welcome, small group schedules regular 1-hour rehearsal and 1-hour coach with Dr. Austin for each week)

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 of Concert Choir