

## CHICAGO MASTER SINGERS 2024–25 AUDITION PACKET

### WELCOME

If you are passionate about choral music and are looking for a rewarding musical experience, we would love to hear from you!

### About Chicago Master Singers (CMS)

Inspiration | Dedication | Excellence | Community

Chicago Master Singers' vision is to grow a culture of inclusive, intergenerational ensemble singing through extraordinary musical experiences that lift the human spirit. Our mission is to inspire singers and audiences through personal connections and musical excellence.

Established in 1979, Chicago Master Singers (CMS) is an auditioned chorus of 100 volunteer singers from Chicago and suburban communities. The ensemble's repertoire includes great choral works and new works by living composers. CMS performs unaccompanied and also collaborates with professional instrumentalists and soloists. The chorus has international acclaim, having toured extensively throughout Europe for the past 30 years.

### Overview of the 2024–25 season

CMS presents a four-concert season with two performances of each program, except for the NextGen sequence. Our concerts for the 2024–25 season will be held on:

- Fall: October 26 & 27
- Christmas: December 7 & 8
- NextGen: February 21
- Season Finale: May 17 & 18

Rehearsals are held every Monday evening at Countryside Church in Palatine from 7:30 to 10:00 PM, beginning on August 19, 2024. Optional (but strongly encouraged) sectionals are held weekly from 7:00 to 7:30, beginning on August 26, 2024. Additionally, rehearsals are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the weeks of concerts. All concert week rehearsals begin at 7:00 and are mandatory.

**Please consult the Season Calendar toward the bottom of this packet for complete details. Make sure that you are able to commit to the ensemble before auditioning.**

### Contents

In this packet, you will find the:

- Audition policy for the 2024–25 season
- Expectations of CMS members
- 2024–25 Season Calendar
- Audition excerpt

## AUDITION POLICY FOR THE 2024–25 SEASON

### Audition process

Auditions for the 2024–25 season will be held on Thursday, July 18, Monday, July 22, Tuesday, July 23, Monday, July 29, and Monday, August 5. Additional auditions for the NextGen and Season Finale sequences will be held in December. All auditions will be held at Countryside Church in Palatine.

For the 2024–25 season, we will conduct auditions for prospective members, current members of the Soprano and Tenor sections, and any singer who missed a sequence during the 2023–24 season. Occasional exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Music Director.

Both current and prospective singers may be accepted on a probationary basis, in which case they will be required to reaudition at a future time determined by the Music Director. Requests for a change of voice part must be discussed with the Music Director and may require an additional audition.

### What we're looking for

Members do not need to be professional musicians, but they must possess an excellent choral skill set, including:

- Interest in a high-level choral experience
- Love of creating enriching musical experiences for audiences and themselves
- Established music-reading skills
- Nuanced musicality and phrasing
- Precise and clear intonation
- Comfort with and willingness to sing in languages other than English
- Ability and willingness to adjust tone, including eliminating vibrato
- Dedication to watching and following the conductor
- Care for consistent execution of musical details (desired vowels, precise consonants, releases, phrasing, etc.)
- Commitment to arriving to every rehearsal on time and prepared
- Willingness to work on music independently outside of rehearsal
- Strong work ethic and desire for musical and personal excellence

### What to expect at an audition

Auditionees will be asked to demonstrate their vocal and musical skills through the following exercises:

- Vocalization
- Pitch memory
- Choral sight-reading (Auditionees will sing their part of a four-part piece. The accompanist will play all four voice parts.)
- An excerpt from the fourth movement, *Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen*, of Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem*. This excerpt should be carefully prepared and performed expressively, at the tempo indicated and with the markings observed. The Music Director will not be conducting, but the accompanist will play the orchestral reduction/accompaniment (not your part). The excerpt can be found at the bottom of this packet.

### Solo Auditions

Singers who would like to be considered for a solo opportunity need to complete a solo audition, which is separate from a membership audition for CMS. Solo auditions will be held prior to rehearsal on Mondays, September 9 and 16, 2024.

Interested singers will audition for specific solo opportunities by singing that passage as their audition. Singers may audition for as many solos as they would like and are not restricted to their assigned voice part. For

example, a member who sings Alto in the chorus may audition for a Soprano solo. A packet of excerpts will be made available at a later date.

### **Cost**

Membership dues were \$125 per season in 2023-24. The 2024-25 dues have not yet been set. Members are also responsible for purchasing their own copies of the music.

### **To schedule an audition**

Visit <http://www.chicagomastersingers.org> to sign up for an audition. Sign ups will be available in June.

### **Questions?**

We will be happy to answer any questions that you have. Please contact [cms.information@gmail.com](mailto:cms.information@gmail.com).

## **EXPECTATIONS OF CMS MEMBERS**

CMS holds the following expectations for its members.

### **Membership and Attendance**

- Help support CMS through ticket sales, patronage, advertising, and donations.
- Sing all scheduled performances for the entire season unless unavoidable circumstances arise. If you are not able to sing the entire season, you will be asked to submit an appeal to the Board. If you must withdraw from a concert sequence, notify the Music Director, section leaders, and Membership chair.
- Be familiar with and adhere to the attendance policy, which can be found in the Members Handbook.

### **Inside and outside of rehearsal**

- Practice repertoire outside of rehearsal. Rehearsal time is for refining the musical vision, not learning notes and rhythms.
- Arrive at every rehearsal and performance on time and mentally, musically, and vocally prepared.
- Maintain an attentive and positive attitude.
- Stop singing and listen for direction as soon as the Music Director stops conducting. Pay attention when the Music Director is working with another section.
- Carefully transfer markings into scores by the due date. During rehearsal, add additional reminders to avoid repeated mistakes and in pursuit of a unified sense of ensemble.
- Keep all recordings of rehearsals and performances private, except for recordings publicly available for sale.

### **Communication**

- Read all Noteworthy emails in a timely manner. This is CMS's primary means of communication outside of rehearsals.
- Whom to contact:
  - For musical questions (score markings, the Members Handbook, rehearsal schedules, attendance, etc.), members should first reach out to their section leaders, who will consult with the Music Director and then report back to the entire section as needed.
  - For administrative questions (operations, tickets, rehearsal recordings, marketing, general suggestions, etc.), members may email [board@chicagomastersingers.org](mailto:board@chicagomastersingers.org), and their question will be forwarded to the relevant people/teams.
  - The Music Director can be reached at [musicdirector@chicagomastersingers.org](mailto:musicdirector@chicagomastersingers.org) (Please be sure to email this address, not his personal account).

## Chicago Master Singers 2024-25 Season Schedule

Mandatory dates in bold.

Please refer to the Attendance Policy in the CMS Members Handbook

	Day	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Fall Sequence	Mon	Aug 19	6:00 PM	Countryside	Kick-off event
			7:30 PM		First rehearsal of 2024-25 season
	Mon	Aug 26	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	<b>Tues</b>	Sep 3	7:30 PM	Countryside	Labor Day is 9/2
	Mon	Sep 9	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Sep 16	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Sep 23	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Sep 30	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Oct 7	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Oct 14	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Oct 21</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Oct 22</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Oct 24</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Oct 26</b>	<b>5:30 PM call, 7:30 concert</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	<b>Fall concert</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Oct 27</b>	<b>1:00 PM call, 3:00 concert</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	<b>Fall concert</b>	
Christmas Sequence	Mon	Oct 28	7:30 PM	Countryside	First Christmas rehearsal
	Mon	Nov 4	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Nov 11	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Nov 18	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Nov 25	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Dec 2</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Dec 3</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Dec 5</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>5:30 PM call, 7:30 concert</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	<b>Christmas concert</b>
	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Dec 8</b>	<b>1:00 PM call, 3:00 concert</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	<b>Christmas concert</b>
	TBD	TBD	TBD	Christmas caroling	
----- <i>Holiday break</i> -----					
NextGen Sequence	Mon	Jan 6	6:00 PM	Countryside	Kick-off event
			7:30 PM		First NextGen rehearsal
	Mon	Jan 13	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Jan 20	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Jan 27	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Feb 3	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Feb 10	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Feb 17</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Feb 21</b>	<b>5:30 PM call, 7:30 concert</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	<b>NextGen concert</b>	
Season Finale Sequence	Mon	Feb 24	7:30 PM	Countryside	First Season Finale rehearsal
	Mon	Mar 3	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Mar 10	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Mar 17	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Mar 24	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Mar 31	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Apr 7	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Apr 14	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Apr 21	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	Apr 28	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	Mon	May 5	7:30 PM	Countryside	
	<b>Mon</b>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Tues</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>May 15</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	
	<b>Sat</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>5:30 PM call, 7:30 concert</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	<b>Season Finale concert</b>
	<b>Sun</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>1:00 PM call, 3:00 concert</b>	<b>Glenview CC</b>	<b>Season Finale concert</b>
	Mon	Jun 2	7:00 PM	Countryside	Annual Meeting
		TBD	7:00 PM	Countryside	Workshops
	TBD	7:00 PM	Countryside	Summer Sing	

**Notes:**

- Audition and rehearsal location listed as **Countryside**:  
Countryside Unitarian Church, 1025 N Smith St, Palatine, IL 60067
- Concert location listed as **Glenview CC**:  
Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St, Glenview, IL 60025
- Concert call times are determined by the Music Director and are subject to change.
- Attendance at weekly sectionals at 7:00 pm is strongly encouraged. Regular weekly rehearsals begin at 7:30 pm; concert week rehearsals begin at 7:00 pm. There are no sectionals prior to the first rehearsal of each sequence or concert week rehearsals.**
- Auditions: Required for prospective members, current Sopranos, current Tenors, and singers interested in solo(s).  
*Membership Auditions* at Countryside from 6-10 pm: Thursday, July 18, 2024; Monday, July 22, 2024; Monday, July 29, 2024; Monday, August 5, 2024  
*Solo Auditions* at Countryside from 6-6:50pm: Monday, Sept 9, 2024; Monday, Sept 16, 2024

Key	
(green)	Concert week
(blue)	Performance
(orange)	Please note the day/time
(yellow)	Other CMS events

# IV. Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen

Mäßig bewegt  $\text{♩} = 92$

Sing in German

Sopran *p* Wie lieblich  
Alt *p* Wie lieblich  
Tenor *p* Wie lieblich  
Bass *p* Wie lieblich

Fl. Klar. Ob. *p dolce*  
Viol.

6  
sind dei - ne Woh - nun - gen, Herr Ze - - - ba - oth, † Herr  
sind dei - ne Woh - nun - gen, Herr Ze - - - ba - oth, † Herr  
sind dei - ne Woh - nun - gen, Herr Ze - - - ba - oth, † Herr  
- - lich dei - ne Woh - nun - gen, — Herr Ze - ba - oth, — † Herr

Klar.

12

Ze - ba - oth, † dei - ne Woh - nun -

Ze - ba - oth, † dei - ne Woh - nun -

Ze - ba - oth, † dei - ne Woh - nun -

Ze - ba - oth, † dei - ne Woh - nun -

Ob. Hr.

18

gen, Herr Ze - ba - oth! †

gen, Herr Ze - ba - oth! †

gen, Herr Ze - ba - oth! †

gen, Herr Ze - ba - oth, Herr Ze - ba - oth! †

Viol.

Str. *p* *espress.*

Klar.

Br.

A