

Sing with Chicago Master Singers

Audition Policy for 2021–22 Season

Welcome

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

About Chicago Master Singers (CMS)

Chicago Master Singers is a 90- to 100-voice choral ensemble featuring singers from Chicago and suburban communities. CMS has performed great choral masterworks in collaboration with professional soloists and orchestras since 1979. It is a volunteer chorus that works at and performs to professional standards.

CMS typically presents a three-concert season with two performances of each program. Concerts are typically held in early November, early December, and late April. Rehearsals are held every Monday evening at **Countryside Church in Palatine** from **7:00 to 10:00 PM** from mid August through April.

Audition process

For the 2021–22 season, **everyone—new auditionees and returning members**—is required to audition. In order to hold these auditions safely during the ongoing pandemic, we will be observing CMS's COVID protocol. The format of this year's auditions will be abbreviated. Our normal audition cycle and an expanded format will resume for the 2022–23 season.

Auditions for the 2021-22 season will be held on July 27, 28 29, and August 2.

Because CMS members are expected to sing all performance sequences apart from unavoidable circumstances, any singer who has missed a sequence may be required to re-audition before returning, even within the same season. Occasional exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Music Director.

Occasionally, both new and returning singers may be accepted on probation and be required to re-audition at a future time as determined by the Music Director. Requests for a change of voice part must be discussed with the Music Director and may require a re-audition.

What we're looking for

Prospective members need not be professional musicians, but they must possess an excellent choral skill set, including:

- Established music-reading skills
- Nuanced musicality and phrasing
- Precise and clear intonation
- Comfort with and willingness to sing in languages other than English
- Ability to adjust tone to match the ensemble's sound
- Dedication to watching and following the conductor
- Willingness to work on music independently outside of rehearsal
- Strong work ethic

What to expect at an audition

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

- Vocalization
- Unaccompanied sight-reading
- Choral sight-reading (Auditionees will sing their part of a four-part piece. The accompanist will play all four voice parts.)
- Pitch memory
- An excerpt from *O Love* by Elaine Hagenberg. This excerpt should be a carefully prepared and musically expressive performance, at the tempo indicated and with the markings observed. The Music Director will not be conducting, but an accompanist will play the orchestral reduction or accompaniment (not your part).

For 2021, only the Music Director and an accompanist will be present at auditions.

Solo Auditions

Singers who would like to be considered for a solo opportunity this season will need to complete a solo audition in addition to their audition for CMS. These will be held on Tuesday, August 10. The solo auditions require auditionees to perform a carefully prepared solo piece appropriate to the singer's range and vocal abilities. The selected piece should reflect the standard of music performed by CMS and should be sung in a classical style (not in a style appropriate to popular or folk music). Each audition slot is limited to five minutes. Two copies of the piece should be provided for the accompanist and the Music Director.

Cost

Membership dues are \$120 per year. Members are also responsible for purchasing their own copies of the music.

To schedule an audition

If you are a singer with choral experience, we want to hear from you! To contact us, email info@chicagomastersingers.org or call our toll-free voice mail at 877-825-5267 (TALKCMS) and leave your name, phone number, and email address. We will contact you to answer your questions and schedule an audition.