

## CMS AUDITION POLICY (revised March 2018)

All new auditionees and returning members are expected to register for annual auditions on one of the scheduled dates. Additional auditions may be scheduled at any time by approval of the Music Director. Appeals and requests for an alternate date will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All returning members will re-audition in alternate years based on the first letter of their last names (A-L in odd years, M-Z in even years).

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.

The audition will include:

- 1) Vocalizing
- 2) 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. It should be sung in a classical style (not in a style appropriate to popular or folk music). Returning members should demonstrate continued musical growth. The Music Director may interrupt a piece longer than 3 minutes, asking the auditionee to stop or to continue with another part of the piece. A list of suggestions is provided on the CMS singers' page as a guide for returning members. Singers appearing without a suitable prepared solo may be asked either to sight-read an appropriate piece or to re-schedule the audition for a later time.

At least 4 copies of the solo must be provided in the desired key, one each for the pianist, the Music Director and the section leaders. Singers not providing copies may be dismissed from the audition or asked to sight-read another piece at the discretion of the Music Director. The accompanist will not transpose any music.

- 3) A sight-reading exercise, typically the melody of an unfamiliar carol, hymn, folk song or other material as provided by the Music Director
- 4) Additional material if requested by the Music Director

Criteria for the evaluation of auditions will include the following:

- intonation
- rhythmic accuracy
- vocal quality
- breath support
- dynamic range
- diction (purity of vowels and clarity of consonants)
- range
- vibrato
- musicianship
- self-correction (in sight-reading)

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.

### Auditions for solos and small ensembles

Any singer interested in CMS solo and/or small ensemble opportunities must re-audition annually. The audition must include a voice-appropriate prepared solo reflective of the standard of music performed by CMS. Singers doing a solo/ensemble-only audition (*i.e.*, in the audition cycle between their required bi-annual auditions) may not be required to sight read. At least 4 copies of the solo must be provided in the desired key. The accompanist will not transpose any music. Please note that new singers are rarely offered solo opportunities in the first year of membership.