

## Auditions FAQ

The logo for City Singers Youth Choirs is enclosed in a double-line rectangular border. The words "City Singers" are written in a large, black, cursive script font, while "Youth Choirs" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font directly below it.

Thank you for your interest in City Singers Youth Choirs!

Below is some helpful information for singers and parents alike. Additional questions? Email Leslie Dripps at [citysingers@gmail.com](mailto:citysingers@gmail.com) or call 804-657-SONG.

**What can we expect at auditions?** Because we know singers do their best when they are *least* nervous, we hold auditions as a group. There may be anywhere from 3 to 9 singers in your audition group, of all different ages and abilities. Parents are present for the duration of the audition, which is run by members of our faculty.

**Will I have to sing by myself?** Once we have sung as a group and are familiar with the exercises, singers will be asked to sing first with a partner, then by themselves. You will not be forced to sing by yourself, but our faculty can hear your voice best on its own. Singers who are too shy to sing alone are not automatically disqualified; our faculty are expert at evaluating a singer's experience and capability in a variety of situations.

**Do I need to prepare a song?** Yes! Although the group audition format is very similar to a regular choir rehearsal "warmup", please learn the first verse of "America the Beautiful". Faculty members teach auditioning singers various vocal exercises designed to highlight elements of rhythm, pitch, tone quality and tonal memory and evaluations are based primarily on the execution of these exercises. Preparing "America" will allow us to hear your voice even better. Memorization not required.

**When do we find out the audition results?** Directly following the audition, each singer (and their folks) will be called individually to receive the results of their audition.

**What if my singer is not accepted?** We encourage you to try again next year! Sometimes a singer needs a year to develop the attention skills needed for a productive and active choir rehearsal, or perhaps private piano lessons would improve the singer's aural or rhythmic skills. We want you to know that singing and musicianship is *learned* and there are a million ways to improve. Our faculty will give your singer detailed feedback based on the audition criteria and recommendations for additional training in order to improve your audition next year.

*The mission of City Singers Youth Choirs is to inspire the highest level of choral artistry while bringing together the youth of the greater Richmond area in joyful appreciation of their religious, ethnic and cultural diversity. We are committed to making our choral education experience available to qualified singers regardless of their economic situations.*

***Believe in the Power of Song!***