

## ASU CHOIR AUDITION INFORMATION

This is information about how to audition for choral groups in fall 2020. PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE MESSAGE! I know it's long. It contains important information about the audition process, placement in choral groups, and registration.

This semester, we will conduct all auditions virtually. There are a couple of different processes, depending on your major and year in school.

### IF YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN A CHOIR AT ASU, READ THIS:

If you wish to sing in the same group you were in last year, **you do not need to audition**. So if you were in Arizona Statesmen, Barrett Choir, Chamber Singers, Choral Union, Concert Choir, Gospel Choir, or Sol Singers and want to continue in that group, just register for it. You don't need to audition this semester. (Note: this includes Chamber Singers and Concert Choir. That's new this year.) You will need to audition if you want to change groups, especially if you want to sing in Concert Choir or Chamber Singers.

### IF YOU ARE NOT A MUSIC MAJOR, READ THIS:

If you are new to ASU choirs and know what ensemble you want, you'll audition directly for that ensemble. Auditions for Arizona Statesmen, Barrett Choir, Choral Union, Gospel Choir, and Sol Singers are one-on-one with the conductor--listed below. Contact that person to establish a time to audition for the choir via Zoom.

See below if you want to audition for Concert Choir or Chamber Singers, or if you are not sure what group you want.

Here's the list of conductors:

Arizona Statesmen: Bart Evans ([bartlett.evans@asu.edu](mailto:bartlett.evans@asu.edu))

Barrett Choir, Choral Union: David Schildkret ([david.schildkret@asu.edu](mailto:david.schildkret@asu.edu))

Gospel Choir: Nathan De' Shon Myers ([nathan.d.myers@asu.edu](mailto:nathan.d.myers@asu.edu))

Sol Singers (formerly Women's Chorus): Kiernan Steiner ([ksteine2@asu.edu](mailto:ksteine2@asu.edu))

If one of those covers your situation, you can skip down to the information on credit hours near the bottom. Otherwise, please continue reading.

### IF ONE OF THESE DESCRIBES YOU, PLEASE READ ON:

- **New students with a voice-choral scholarship**
- **New music majors whose degree requires singing in a choir**

This includes:

- undergraduate vocal performance majors
- undergraduate music ed and music therapy majors with a voice emphasis
- master's students in vocal performance and performance/pedagogy
- any student with a choral scholarship, regardless of major

- **Returning students who want to sing in Concert Choir or Chamber Singers--but were in a different ensemble before**
- **Any student new to ASU choirs who isn't sure which choir to choose**
- **Any student who wants to sing in Concert Choir or Chamber Singers who hasn't sung with that group before**

## **ALL THE STUDENTS LISTED ABOVE AUDITION FOR THE CHORAL FACULTY.**

(Note: This email message is going to a large list; it is possible that you don't need to audition at all or even sing in a choir if you don't want to, but are getting this anyway. Please share the information with someone who needs it! Note that you are welcome to sing in a choir even if it is not part of your degree requirements. Choirs are open to students regardless of major. You may also sing in more than one choir if your schedule allows it.) :o)

### **HERE'S HOW YOU AUDITION FOR THE CHORAL FACULTY:**

#### **STEP ONE: SUBMIT A VIDEO OF YOUR SINGING.**

-Make a video recording of your singing. Any recording device, including a phone, is fine. Try to do it in a relatively quiet spot, but don't worry if the dog walks through or your little sister screams with delight. It's all good.

-The video is up to 2 minutes in length. Repertory is completely up to you: choose something that you love to sing and that shows your voice to best advantage. We are listening for full vocal range and quality, not to style or repertory.

-Upload your video. Make note of the URL and provide it on the [AUDITION FORM](#). You can use one of these formats: YouTube, Dropbox, Google, etc. Callbacks will be on August 21. There is a place on the form to note your conflicts for that day.

(If the link to the form above does not work, please copy this URL and paste it into your browser:

<https://forms.gle/m46MbvWBMAaeUJyT9>)

**-Submit your video and form by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, August 17.**

#### **STEP TWO: CHECK YOUR EMAIL.**

-We will send an email acknowledging receipt of your form and the URL of your video. Allow 24 hours for this.

-By noon on Thursday, August 20, we will send a group email indicating who is being considered for Concert Choir and/or Chamber Singers. Those students will do a Zoom callback on Friday, August 21. If you are not called back, we will suggest an ensemble that we think will work for you. If you are a scholarship student, you **MUST** sing in that ensemble. All others may discuss the placement with the conductor of the group or with me, David Schildkret. If you are a music major, be sure you sing in a choir that fulfills your ensemble requirements. You can find these on the checksheet for your degree, or you may consult an academic advisor.

#### **STEP THREE: EITHER COME TO A CALLBACK OR GO TO THE FIRST MEETING OF YOUR ENSEMBLE**

-Those being considered for Concert Choir and/or Chamber Singers will be assigned a callback time for a Zoom audition to take place on Friday, August 21. We will base this schedule on the conflict information you provide on the audition form. Please let us know immediately if there is a problem with your assigned time.

-The callback audition will last up to five minutes. It will mainly be sight-singing; we may ask a question or two. For sight-singing, use any system that gives the most accurate result. We're only listening for accuracy, we're not judging based on solfege, numbers, or neutral syllables--all are acceptable. And we're not necessarily looking for perfection: evidence of "musical intelligence"--you know where the keynote is; you can get back on track if you goof; etc.--will definitely count in your favor.

-Check your email: I'll send out results by the end of the day on Saturday, August 22. You attend class meetings for choir beginning the week of August 24.

## FOR EVERYONE!

### PLACEMENT IN A GROUP, REGISTRATION, ETC.:

If you audition for the choral faculty, please note that placement is based primarily on your skill level and vocal development. We also consider overall balance in the groups, but skill level and vocal development are the main determinants.

Members of the Chamber Singers are primarily graduate students in voice. Concert Choir is primarily undergraduate music majors. If you are a first-year undergraduate, we may place you in another group while you work on your basic musicianship and technique.

**We cannot base placement on your schedule.** If you are a music major, you will need to adjust your schedule so that you can sing in the group we have assigned you to.

- Your voice teachers know that they cannot finalize their lesson schedules until choral auditions are complete.
- If you have a job, please do not finalize your work schedule until you know which ensemble you are in.
- If you are not a music major and cannot adjust your schedule, you may have to delay admission into the group until a future semester. In most cases, with some juggling and use of alternate sections or courses, it is possible to free the choral ensemble times. We will often suggest more than one ensemble, so perhaps another one fits your schedule.

**New students:** changing schedules at the college level is quite common and routine; it carries no stigma. General education classes typically have many sections at various times, so it's usually possible to find the class you need at a time that doesn't conflict with choir. Just work with your advisor to adjust your schedule. It's not a big or complicated deal. :o)

Once you know which choir you are singing in, please be sure to **change your registration**, if necessary. This doesn't happen automatically: you must do it yourself. It is easiest if you do it by the university's drop-add deadline of August 26, because you can do it online. You still have time after that date, but it requires a paper form that takes more effort. You must register for the class to sing in a choir. (There is an exception for out-of-state graduate students in certain circumstances. Please consult Dr. Schildkret if this applies to you.)

### CREDITS.

**Choir is normally 2 credits.** If you signed up for 1 credit and you have room in your schedule for 2 credits without paying an additional fee, please edit your registration (choose 2 instead of 1 from the dropdown in the credit column). Please don't try dropping and re-adding the class, because this creates problems in the registration system. If you have difficulties, please consult an advisor. Again, the 1-credit option is there in case 2 credits creates an overload or an additional tuition charge for you. There is no difference in expectations between 1 and 2 credits.

### FIRST REHEARSALS:

- **Barrett Choir and Gospel Choir** will meet for the first time on Thursday, August 20, at the normal class time.
- **Arizona Statesmen, Chamber Singers, Sol Singers, and Choral Union** will meet for the first time on August 24 at the normal class time.
- **Concert Choir** will meet for the first time on August 25 at the normal class time.

I am looking forward to seeing and hearing you soon!

Sincerely,

David Schildkret