

A WORD ABOUT THE AUDITION PROCEDURES

From Choral Director Patrick Walders, inspired by his predecessor, David Chase

As someone who has auditioned for musical opportunities since pre-Kindergarten, I'm happy to share the fact, "I get it."

As someone who has recently (2013-2016) endured an audition and re-audition process as a vocalist/chorister for a professional organization, once again, "I get it."

As someone who, in the past 20 years, has heard thousands of auditions of all shapes and sizes and of all ages, I wish to remind you, "I get it."

The word, "Audition," is often mistaken for, "Judgement leading to rejection." Please think of an audition as an, "opportunity." It's an opportunity to celebrate abilities and experience developed over years of practice in front of people who are also human beings. It's simply a chance for a panel to collect data and, in their expert and seasoned opinion, figure out whether moving forward together may set both parties up for success.

The word, "No," is not final. If an audition doesn't have the outcome desired, then consider it an opportunity for growth, and be proactive about that growth. "No," is an opportunity for growth. Just ask someone to guide you on the path to growth.

SMART CHORUS

Our audition process is not unique. We do pride ourselves on having an intelligent and fearless (!) chorus and want to make it even smarter, which allows us to make more music, more often. A solid chorus needs quality and quantity in their sound. Members need to possess a resonant, accurate, and free voice. The audition scoring is weighted toward these attributes. In fact, if an excellent vocalist possesses little to no

musicianship/theory skills, they will be accepted, with the provision they are willing to improve the skills lacking, and/or seek tutoring to keep up on a weekly basis.

A high level of musicianship and/or willingness to work to achieve the level needed is key to performing the varied repertoire that we do, and doing it under the time restraints we have. If the level of musicianship and/or work ethic among members diminishes, the rehearsals move slowly and the repertoire chosen must become less adventuresome, moving away from our mission.

DEDICATION

The La Jolla Symphony Chorus and orchestra provide a vehicle for members to find and/or satisfy their passion for music making. Veteran musicians know the dedication it takes in and outside of rehearsals to perform at high levels. Music Leaders within the ensemble provide members with resources to improve skills and facilitate efficient practicing on an individual basis. Dedication and hard work, coupled with music ability, allows us to achieve our mission.

SERIOUS VOCAL MUSICIANS

It is often said that a stereotypical, “singer,” may not have the music skills and/or work ethic to make high quality music, especially over a long period of time. A serious vocal musician who is dedicated to music making is the kind person who fits in our musical community.

GOALS AND IDENTITY

We are proud to be an organization that embraces traditional and cutting edge ideas. This chorus is traditional in that it is a community of like-minded vocal musicians whose music making

brings them close together as friends and mentors to young members. We are unusual in that the chorus prefers to be challenged by music not all choruses choose to do. Members like to have fun while working seriously, which is an ideal working environment.

To do all of the above, most importantly, we need good people who are willing to work, learn, make mistakes, grow, and thrive in a wonderfully challenging and interesting environment. This audition process helps us find these people. Whether on the roster or an enthusiast in the audience, welcome to our community!