

Byng Arts Choir
Information for students preparing for Byng Arts Auditions Online



✓ **Prepare two contrasting pieces for your audition:**

1. **Technical Piece:** it is encouraged that the first song choice is a classical or traditional piece (example: Amazing Grace, Hallelujah; folksongs are accepted as well).

Candidates are welcomed to use the same song they had sung for their pre-audition video if it is the only classical piece in their repertoire. Candidates are encouraged to prepare at least half of the full song for their choice of classical/traditional piece. The chosen piece should demonstrate each candidate's vocal technique (breath control, vocal range, ability to shape pure vowels, etc).

2. **Showcase Piece:** it is encouraged that candidates choose a song that enhances their individual personality and highlights what they are passionate about. Please be prepared to demonstrate only half of the showcase piece (can be the first half or the second half).

Accompaniment (Optional):

Candidates may sing with piano accompaniment, guitar accompaniment, or a background track that is downloaded onto their own devices (such as a cellphone or an ipad). The background track must only consist of instrumental accompaniment and NOT a voice accompaniment. Candidates may also choose to sing a cappella (no accompaniment). Candidates are also welcomed to have someone else accompany them during the audition.

✓ **Sight-singing:**

Candidates are encouraged to try their best to demonstrate understanding of note names, rhythms, and basic direction of the notes on the page. **Candidates are NOT REQUIRED to complete the exercise perfectly.** This component is to provide background on each candidate's music theory and sight-singing skills at this time.

Candidates will be given a short sight-singing exercise in $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{4}{4}$ time. They will be provided with the root, third, and fifth of the scale (triad) of the exercise you are about to sight-sing. Each candidate will be given ONE minute to go over the pitches and

rhythm on their own. When the minute is up, each candidate will be asked to (as best as they could):

1. Name the notes in the exercise, and
2. Clap the rhythm in the exercise. ***And, if possible,***
3. Sing the exercise: candidates are welcomed to hum first to practice for 30 seconds. Candidates will then be asked to sing on 'lah' (or sing in solfege) as best as they can.

General Questions:

It is encouraged that candidates ask questions they may have regarding the program at this time.

Thank you for your interest in the choir program! I look forward to meeting you. Should you have any questions regarding the program and/or auditions, please contact our Fine Arts Coordinator Mr. Hartley-Folz at byngarts@vsb.bc.ca.

Warm regards,

Lisa Lan, M.Ed., B.Ed., B.Mus., B.A.

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