



# ATLANTA **WOMEN'S** CHORUS

## THE ATLANTA WOMEN'S CHORUS [PROSPECTIVE MEMBER PACKET]

- *Message from the Artistic Director*
- *Auditioning for the Atlanta Women's Chorus*
- *Prospective Member Overview*
- *Application for Singing Membership*



## Are you one of our new members?

### A Message from the Artistic Director

Dear Prospective Member of the Atlanta Women's Chorus,

I am excited that you would like to become a member of this wonderful organization! I am hopeful that through a carefully considered, embracing process, we will soon be able to consider you one of the proud members of the Atlanta Women's Chorus, whether singing or volunteering in other ways for this exciting new group.

If you're interested in becoming a non-singing volunteer, please contact our President Elect Trisha Brake, at [trishy0229@gmail.com](mailto:trishy0229@gmail.com). If singing is your passion, however, read on!

In this packet, you will find everything you need to begin your audition/interview process:

- Auditioning for the Atlanta Women's Chorus
- Prospective Member Overview
- Application for Singing Membership

A word about the "audition." If the word puts a knot in your stomach, I understand. I have been auditioning singers for choruses for decades and I know first-hand how difficult the process can be. Unfortunately, auditions require us to do our best work under the worst circumstances, and the pressure can create lots of challenges – especially when singing. It's so very personal and when we're scared, it can show.

Take a deep breath. I get it. And so does our leadership team that realizes you may not be a professional singer. Few choruses require that you are. When you walk through the door, we want you to be the best you can be, and we promise to do everything we can to make you feel comfortable.

Our hope is that the process is natural and doesn't feel rushed for you, but scheduling is often tight and we need to move quickly, which may make your fifteen minutes feel like twenty seconds, but it's not. We'll be listening and working with you to understand your voice and give you every opportunity to become a member of the Atlanta Women's Chorus.

So take a breath. We're just people – people who want to see you succeed.

I look forward to meeting you at the audition and to the possibility of calling you our next new member!

Warm regards,

Melissa Arasi  
Artistic Director  
Atlanta Women's Chorus

## AUDITIONING FOR THE ATLANTA WOMEN'S CHORUS

### How to prepare:

- If possible, please prepare a song in advance and bring sheet music. The song should be appropriate for the type of music the chorus performs (e.g. classical, multicultural, jazz, musical theater, pop). If you need to look at the music while you sing, please bring two copies. Please refrain from bringing electronic accompaniment or backup tracks.
- If you do not read music or do not have a prepared song, you may sing "Happy Birthday," "America the Beautiful," "My Country 'Tis of Thee," "Jingle Bells", a hymn, or something similar.
- Review the audition dates, then contact Trisha Brake (2015-2016 Membership President- Elect) at [trishy0229@gmail.com](mailto:trishy0229@gmail.com) to schedule your time. If you are not available to audition on the designated date, please ask if there is an alternate time you might schedule. Auditions are by appointment only. Auditions will likely be held at St. Luke Episcopal Church, 435 Peachtree St. NE, in downtown Atlanta. Trisha Brake will coordinate logistics with you directly.
- Please e-mail Trisha Brake prior to the audition in the event that you are running late or have to reschedule. Should you change your mind about auditioning, please let her know so we may use the time efficiently.

### What to expect when you arrive:

- You will be asked to provide a completed Application for Singing Membership (included in this audition packet). Filling this out in advance of your arrival is helpful.
- When you enter the room, you will be greeted by the director of the chorus, Melissa Arasi (who will take your application). There may be other members helping through this process and are there to support you in your audition and want you to succeed. After introductions, you may be asked some additional questions based on your completed form.
- Next, you will do some vocalizing to establish the section for which your voice would be most appropriate. Stand comfortably by the piano for this portion of the audition. You may be asked to sing in parts of your voice that you don't use often, but that's part of the process. It's important to explore all ranges of your voice in order to determine where to place you.
- You will also be asked to demonstrate how easily you learn a passage of music. Do not let this discourage you from auditioning. Many singers do not read music and learn better through listening. You may have this skill as well, and that is what the team needs to determine. If you're a good sight-reader, then you should have no problem at all.
- The audition will also include a check of your tonal memory. A short melodic phrase will be played on the piano and you will be asked to sing it back.

### What to expect immediately after your audition:

- You may be asked to step out of the room. Upon your return, you will be given one of three responses:
  1. Yes. Welcome to the chorus!
  2. Possibly. We'd like to see how you do in a few rehearsals before we confirm your membership.
  3. Not yet. We have concerns that you won't be able to contribute to the chorus as a singing member at this time.
- It is not easy for us to turn people away. We want to welcome as many singers as possible. If we cannot offer you a singing position, we will be gentle, treat you with the respect, and applaud your courage and interest in the Atlanta Women's Chorus. Our hope is that we might be able to find other ways for you to contribute to the chorus, including attending rehearsals and helping at performances.

### The next steps:

- If you are offered singing membership with the AWC, we will do everything in our power to ensure that you are given the best orientation possible. Please read the AWC Prospective Member Overview (included in this audition packet) before coming to audition and again before attending a rehearsal. This will answer some basic questions and prepare you for this exciting and unique experience.
- Finally, we understand that once your audition is completed, *you must then audition us* to confirm that we're a good fit for you. You will not be asked to make a financial commitment to the AWC until the orientation process is complete (probably after three rehearsals) and have decided to move forward with your membership.
- We are excited by your interest and are hopeful that you become one of many stellar members of the Atlanta Women's Chorus!



## PROSPECTIVE MEMBER OVERVIEW

### **What you can expect at the first rehearsal:**

- A vocal warm-up
- Staff introductions and welcome
- Introduction to the music for the first performances
- News and announcements
- A break – a great time to meet members of the chorus and grab a quick snack

### **What is expected of you when accepted to singing membership:**

- A minimum of \$60 in dues each concert (3 per season)
- Black full length skirt or dress pants for performances with a uniform top (information will be provided to order the uniform top and vest - approximately \$60)
- An annual weekend retreat in the fall (cost ranges from \$150-250 depending on single or double occupancy, etc.)
- Thursday night rehearsals (7:30 – 9:30) location, St. Luke Episcopal Church, 435 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta
- Periodic sectional rehearsals to focus on mechanics of the music
- Memorizing all music for each concert
- Hard work and a collaborative approach

### **What the Atlanta Women's Chorus provides with your membership:**

- A social and support network of people who love music, singing and performing together
- Social events to connect with other members, staff and board members
- Financial assistance and scholarships for members with financial challenges



# Atlanta Women's Chorus

## Application for Singing Membership

### Personal Information

Name		
Email address		Preferred phone
Other reliable ways to contact you		Date of Birth
Current address		
City	State	Zip
Employer (optional)		

### History

AGMC/AWC concerts you may have attended:	Women's ensembles you may have sung with:	How did you hear about the AWC?
List choruses that you may have sung with in the past		
Please describe your musical background, including vocal training and instruments you've studied		
List any languages other than English that you speak or have studied		

### Availability

Regular Rehearsals: August 11, 2016 – June 1, 2017; Thursday evenings, 7:30 – 9:30

Performance Dates: November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>    February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>    June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Dates subject to change prior to the beginning of any concert cycle. Please list any known conflicts with the above rehearsal and performance schedule.

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The AWC will prosper through volunteer assistance from its membership. In which of the following support areas might you have interest?

Production    Marketing    Fundraising    Administrative    Audience Development

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List any additional ways you feel you might be able to contribute to the AWC: