

Westminster Choir College

CHORAL HEARINGS

What is a Choral Hearing and why do I need to do one?

Hearings are an essential element to your success at Westminster Choir College. They take place at the beginning of every school year and are required of all students. Hearings are used to determine the voicing in core curricular ensembles (Chapel and Symphonic) and possible placements in select ensembles (Jubilee Singers, Kantorei, Westminster Choir, and Williamson Voices). For members of Symphonic Choir, this hearing will determine which runouts they will be selected to be on throughout the year.

What do I need to prepare?

Before your Choral Hearing, you will need to fill out an online audition form. It is quick, easy and only takes a few minutes to fill out. All forms must be sent in by **Saturday, August 17, 2019**. The form can be found on the Performance Management section of the website or directly at this link: <https://forms.gle/zsb8MWRzttK1iyX86>

REQUIREMENTS

PREPARED PIECE	Memorize 1-2 minutes of a prepared selection that demonstrates your musicianship. This can be an art song, aria, or folk song/hymn. There will be a staff accompanist provided, but they will be sight-reading. You may also bring your own accompanist.
SIGHT READING	You will be given a short example to sight sing. Take one minute to look at the line before singing. Solfege, numbers, or a single vowel are all acceptable methods. Keep a steady tempo and try not to stop once you have begun singing the example. If you would like to practice, please use a hymnal or basic music text and practice singing individual lines without the aid of a piano. You may also find resources online.
TONAL MEMORY	A series of pitches will be played on the piano. You will then be asked to immediately sing them back after the first hearing. There will be several examples.

Who will be listening? Members of the Conducting and Voice faculty.

When and where do the Choral Hearings take place?

Choral Hearings happen the week before school starts during orientation week in Bristol Chapel. It is extremely important to honor your hearing time, as missing it may forfeit any possible spot in select ensembles as well as the opportunity to sing in performances during the year. There will be no exceptions or allowances made if you are not present for your scheduled hearing.

How do I find out when my Choral Hearing is?

All new students will receive their scheduled time in their orientation packets. Everyone else will be emailed their times by Performance Management.

<i>Schedule</i>	Incoming Graduate Students and Orientation Leaders	Tuesday, August 27
	Freshmen and Transfer Students	Wednesday, August 28
	Returning Students	Thursday, August 29 - Saturday, August 31

****Freshmen will be fitted for their red robes in Bristol Chapel's Fisk Room on *Friday, August 30* between 10 - 12pm****