

Newburyport Choral Society Chamber Singers Mission and Audition Process

NCS is working to form a Chamber Singers group within the Newburyport Choral Society, comprised of singers at a semi-professional to professional level. The focus will be on high-efficiency rehearsals and a high standard of performance. Repertoire will encompass a wide range of styles, with a particular emphasis on early vocal music, including Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical works, though not limited to these genres.

This Chamber Singers group provides an avenue to both deepen the variety of our concert repertoire and provide an outlet for our advanced singers. There is interesting repertoire to add to our concerts which would not be well-suited for the entire chorus. Both because the repertoire is composed for a smaller group, and also because some of our singers might find the music too challenging.

Objectives:

- Activities of the Chamber Singers will include performing select pieces during concerts as an integral part of the Chorus.
- Foster opportunities for growth of members' skills.

Expectations:

- Ability to read music fluently and with confidence.
- Strong sense of rhythm, intonation, and the ability to interpret and perform in the appropriate musical style for each piece.
- Participation in a select number of pieces for concerts, ensuring focused and high-quality performances.
- Availability for additional performances as opportunities arise, including community events, celebrations, and other engagements.
- Requests for additional performances will be considered and accommodated, when possible, within the rehearsal and performance schedule.

Rehearsals:

Occasional Tuesdays before or after rehearsal, with the possibility of an additional 20–30 minutes within/after the regular NCS rehearsal, depending on the repertoire and the progress made on the selected music.

Audition Preparation:

Auditions will be held each semester with a view to allow members multiple opportunities to participate, and with a focus on selecting repertoire to be performed.

The audition will mainly consist of two components, singing a solo piece and sight-reading and aural skills.

For your solo, prepare one solo piece of your choice, with a preference for classical repertoire (e.g., art song, lieder, or arias from oratorios. Try to avoid opera arias). An accompanist will be provided, but you will need to please an extra copy of music for the accompanist (double-sided, hole-punched in a 3-ring binder, or make it easy for the accompanist to turn pages).

You may find suitable work here: <https://24italiansongs.org/>

The scores for a number of works from the book above should be available as public domain especially on "[IMSLP \(International Music Score Library Project\)](#)." As an example, you may search "Caro Mio Ben IMSLP."

More examples of suitable repertoires are the following:

- [Caro Mio Ben](#) - Guiseppe Giordani (It.)
- [Sure on this Shining Night](#) - Samuel Barber (Eng.)
- [Nel Cor Piu Nonk Mi Sento](#) - Giovanni Paisiello (It.)
- [Bist Du Bei Mir](#) - Johann Sebastian Bach (Ger.)
- [Oh Shenandoah](#) (Eng)
- [Vittoria, Vittoria mio Core](#) - Giacomo Carissimi (It.)
- [Swing Low, Sweet Chariot](#) - Wallis Willis (Eng.)
- "Edelweiss" from *Sound of Music* (Eng.)
- [Simple Gifts](#) (Eng.)

Audition Time and Location Spring, 2025:

- January 21, 2025 from 6:30-7:00 PM
- January 28, 2025 from 6:30-7:00 PM

Please sign-up for your audition time as soon as the announcement is made.

Location:

Chapel of Belleville Congregational Church