

# *Temple University Music Prep*

## *Children's Choir*

**Audition Date:** September 20, 2008

**To:** All singers auditioning for the Temple University Children's Choir

**Re:** Tips for a good choral audition

This information is a guide to help you prepare yourself for your audition or re-audition for the Temple University Music Prep Children's Choir

### **Choral Program Structure**

The choir will have three performing ensembles, the Alpha Choir or Training Choir (ages 7-10); Concert Choir (ages 10-17); and the Chamber Choir or Touring Choir (ages 12-17). Your audition is **your** opportunity to shine--to show the Music Director all of the musical skills that you know as well as providing the opportunity for the director to assess your potential for growth. Following your audition, a letter will communicate your placement within the Children's Choir Program to you from Temple Music Prep. Placement in any choir is not automatic from year to year but occurs, after the audition or re-audition, and following serious consideration by the Music Director.

### **Audition Procedures**

All decisions for the year including admittance to the program, choir placement, and the assignment of vocal or instrumental solo work is decided by the Music Director following your audition. If you play an instrument well enough to perform **extremely well and reliably** in a concert (except piano), bring your instrument to your audition. Be prepared to play a short section of a larger work, or a short song on your instrument for the music director **after** your singing audition is completed.

### **Criteria for returning choristers in Concert and Chamber Choir:**

1. Vocalize
2. Sing 2 excerpts a cappella from our 2007 Captivating Choristers Concert: a.) The New Year Carol – from *Friday Afternoons*

# *Temple University Music Prep*

## *Strings*

**Auditions:** September 6 and  
September 13, 2008

Dear Young String Players:

We are pleased to announce increased opportunities for participants in Temple Music Prep's Center for Gifted Young Musicians during the 2008-09 season. These include an additional orchestra level and more chamber music ensembles.

Please note the new configuration, times, and levels of CGYM ensembles.

- 1). **Classic Strings (CS)**  
**Saturdays, 2:30-3:30 PM, Room 508**  
Classic Strings is our first level of chamber orchestra, and will be directed by Aaron Picht. We anticipate the age range to be students 8-12 years old.
- 2). **Baroque Players (BP)**  
**Saturdays, 1:30-2:30 PM, Room 508**  
BP is the next level in the CGYM continuum, and will be conducted by Davyd Booth. Typical age range will be 10-14 years old.
- 3). **Chamber Players Orchestra (CPO)**  
**Saturdays, 2:40-4:00 PM, Room 222**  
CPO is the newest addition to our ensembles roster. This orchestra will be directed by Davyd Booth. All non-bassists in this orchestra will participate in Chamber Music 12:30-2:30 PM, prior to orchestra. Typical age range is 12-17 years old.
- 4). **Youth Chamber Orchestra (YCO)**  
**Saturdays, 1:00-2:30 PM, Room 222**  
Our most advanced orchestra level is conducted by Luis Biava. All non-bassists will be assigned to chamber music ensembles 2:40-4:40 PM, following orchestra. Typical age range is 13-18 years old.

Orchestras are expected to be no larger than 35 members each.

All orchestra/chamber/seating assignments will be based on auditions held September 6 and 13. Students will be notified as soon as possible, prior to first rehearsals on September 27.

## Criteria for returning and NEW potential

### Alpha Choir choristers:

1. Vocalize
2. Sing first verse of "My Country 'Tis of Thee"
3. Tonal memory - director will play a series of three pitches which the chorister will sing back to her

### Criteria for NEW potential choristers in Concert Choir/Chamber Choir:

1. Vocalize
2. Sightreading - singing a cappella a short musical line (pitch and tonality given to start)
3. Sing first verse of "My Country 'Tis of Thee"

### Desirable Vocal and Musical Qualities

The director listens to the quality of your tone. Do you have a beautiful, well supported "head" voice (or the potential to develop one) or are you belting like a Broadway "Annie" or "Oliver"? How is your diction? Are your vowels pure? Are you demonstrating good phrasing? Do you follow the dynamics in the music? Do you pay attention to your word stress – phrase direction? Are you communicating the message of the text - expression? How is your posture? How accurate (rhythm and pitch) is your singing? How is your hearing? Do you read music and/or recognize musical signs and symbols? If you have not been trained in the qualities listed above, it does not mean that you cannot make it into this choir. The Music Director also evaluates each singer on their potential for growth and this is as important as the demonstrated skills for each singer who is auditioning for the first time. The Music Director may require that you take "Essentials for Singers," to help strengthen your musical skills.

### Commitment

In addition to exhibiting a beautiful voice, good musicianship, and potential for growth, the Music Director will be looking for those who are willing to commit to a rigorous and consistent rehearsal schedule, including attending all dress rehearsals and concerts. Before signing up to audition, serious family discussion regarding what this commitment will entail should occur. We allow only TWO excused absences per season (i.e. SAT's, family commitments). Illness does not

Providing valid email contacts will expedite your notification.

(Please be patient; there are over 200 young musicians expected to audition for this highly selective program)

Below is information specifying criteria for each ensemble. Please remember that this is a highly selective program for serious string students interested in developing their talent to the highest levels. Technical proficiency and musicality are the determining factors in your acceptance and placement. Rhythmic integrity, clean articulation, accurate intonation and musical sensitivity are absolutely expected. Please note that **it is much better to play a piece extremely well than to just get through a more advanced piece.**

Students are accepted into the Center for Gifted Young Musicians based on exhibited talent, skills and commitment to excellence. Members of the program are expected to participate with absolutely impeccable attendance and punctuality, preparation, and good collegiality. **If you are not able to fully commit to these schedules and demands, this program is not for you.**

It is my personal hope that the new configuration will increase your growth and enjoyment of CGYM this year. I look forward to seeing you at auditions and rehearsals.

### Center for Gifted Young Musicians Audition Criteria:

1. All students should be prepared with two contrasting pieces, and
2. a **brief sight-reading excerpt** (new this year, all students). Bassists will perform repertoire as directed by their teachers.

**Please Note:** These are **minimum** repertoire (or equivalent pieces) demonstrating basic level required to audition for each of these groups.

### Classic Strings

- Ability to play in keys from three sharps to two flats
- **Violin:** Vivaldi: *Concerto in a minor*, Op. 3, No. 6, First or Third movement or equivalent piece demonstrating shifting and ability to play in Third Position. Three octave G Major Scale.

count as an excused absence, and after two or more illness absences the Music Director will contact the home to personally discuss the status of the chorister involved. Prompt arrival to all rehearsals and concerts is expected, and two late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence and will also put the status of the chorister into question, to be determined by the Music Director.

All of the above is used to determine appropriate choir placements.

Please be sure to schedule your audition as soon as possible.

### **Audition Day**

Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before your audition. This will give you time to fill out the Temple Music Prep forms, go to the restroom, drink some water and relax yourself before your audition. It is hoped that this information answers your questions and will help you do your best during the audition.

Best wishes and good luck!

- **Viola:** J.S.Bach: *Bourree or Gavotte* from Suzuki Book Three, Seitz: *Concerto #2* (Mvt. 3) or *Concerto #5* (Mvt. 1), or equivalent pieces. Two octave C Major scale.
- **Cello:** Vivaldi, *Concerto in e minor* or equivalent piece. Two octave C Major Scale.

### **Baroque Players**

- **Violin:** J.S.Bach: *Concerti*, Accolay: *Concerto in a minor*, Mozart: *G Major Concerto*, Haydn: *Concerti*, or equivalent pieces.
- **Viola:** Telemann: *Concerto* or equivalent piece.
- **Cello:** Saint-Saens: "*Allegro Appassionato*", Golterman: *Concerto in G*, or equivalent pieces

### **Chamber Players Orchestra**

- Baroque Players repertoire or higher equivalent. Higher expectations of technical proficiency and musicality. More challenging Sight-Reading.

### **Youth Chamber Orchestra**

- Professional repertoire played with highest level of technique and musicality.

Audition demand is high and time is limited. Students should be well prepared and ready to play any repertoire submitted.

Best wishes and good luck!