



The Alexandria Singers

Information for Prospective Members

WELCOME!

We're pleased that you're interested in joining The Alexandria Singers!

The Alexandria Singers is a mixed vocal group. Founded in 1975, we are the only group in the Washington area that sings predominantly American popular music, including Top 40, show tunes, 'golden oldies', and jazz. We are proud of our distinct sound. Our revenue is generated from concert ticket sales, contract performances, fund-raisers, funding from the City of Alexandria, and donations (private and corporate). A Board of Directors (elected annually by the membership) sets policies and guides the organization. Our Director, Assistant Director, Accompanist, and Choreographer are salaried. The group's membership consists of singers from a wide range of ages and backgrounds, but we all have one thing in common -- a love of singing!

AUDITIONS: Open auditions are held on Tuesdays in September and January and by appointment. Please check our Web site (www.alexandriasingers.com) for specific details. We ask that you make an appointment to audition with our Membership VP. You may request an audition at any time by sending an e-mail to audition@alexandriasingers.com or calling 703-941-SING (7464).

The audition takes 15-20 minutes and has two components: singing and choreography. You will be notified by the Director, with follow-up by the Membership VP, as to whether you have been accepted as a member of The Alexandria Singers.

For the singing portion, the Director requests that you bring a prepared song to sing, with a copy for the accompanist. If you do not have a prepared piece, you may sing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" or another generally known song. The Director will also test your vocal range and sight-reading skills.

For the choreography segment, you do not need to prepare anything. The choreographer will teach you some basic steps, and will help you repeat them to music. * Please note: The choreography audition is typically done in groups rather than one-on-one.

REHEARSALS: Singers rehearse from 7 – 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday, at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss Street in Alexandria (off Beauregard near Duke Street and 395, across from Landmark Plaza). Once a month, a Saturday rehearsal is held from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at a church in the Alexandria area. Our seasons run September-mid-December and January-June. In preparation for the June concert, additional choreography rehearsals may be scheduled. The Director may schedule additional rehearsals at his discretion.

MUSIC: Music is purchased through the Singers. The Singers have a standing repertoire as well as additional music for the Holiday and June shows. Most pieces for all the concerts are memorized.

EXPECTATIONS: As the Washington area's premiere popular music choral group, we all bear a responsibility to learn and memorize our music, learn and perfect the choreographed movements, and develop a pleasant stage presence. Every effort will be made to assist you with these goals. Evaluations of individual abilities are crucial and will be conducted before every major concert. Each Singer should be prepared to be evaluated by the Director, in either a large- or a small-group setting. Feedback from these evaluations is not meant to be critical or personal, but may lead to additional tutorial assistance or, in extreme cases, a request to 'sit out' during any song with which you're having difficulties. The support network of Singers and the Director will do their utmost to

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ensure that EVERYONE succeeds.

CONCERTS: We present two major concerts in Alexandria each year: our holiday concert in December and a spring concert in June. Both shows feature choreographed movements for some songs.

OTHER PERFORMANCES: The Alexandria Singers perform in Alexandria and the D.C. metropolitan area at conventions, meetings, local civic events, schools, hospitals, senior centers, and other events throughout the year. Some of the performances are at the Alexandria Arts Festival, Market Square in Alexandria, Ft Ward Park Summer Concert Series, the Mormon Visitors' Center, the Pageant of Peace, and other venues in the area.

FUND-RAISERS: Only by raising funds are we able to afford to do what we all love to do — sing and perform. In addition to performing, individual Singers do all of the fund-raising necessary to support the organization. Funds are traditionally raised from: ticket sales, honoraria from contract performances; corporate and individual donations; grants (including an award from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts); membership dues; program ad sales; poinsettia sales; raffles; and other fund-raising activities, events, and projects. Each member is expected to participate in the fund-raising events each season.

DUES/EXPENSES:

Dues: \$125.00 per year (pro-rated by quarter based on the date you join).

\$75.00 per year for members 25 years old and under (pro-rated by quarter based on the date you join).

Music: Approximately \$20-\$25 each season (September and January) for returning singers; new singers will be purchasing more music so the cost will be higher, approximately \$35-\$40.

Costumes: Costume requirements will vary for each performance at minimal cost, if any, to the singers.

Concert Ticket Sales: Each Singer must sell \$100 worth of tickets for each major concert (*i.e.*, for the December and for the June Show).

Our goal is to provide an opportunity for all to sing. If these expenses are a hardship, feel free to speak with the President to discuss alternatives/arrangements.

QUESTIONS/AUDITIONS: If you have questions, or **to schedule an audition**, please call the Membership Vice-president, at (703) 941-SING (703-941-7464), or send an e-mail to audition@alexandriasingers.com.