



Choral/Vocal Department FAQ's

1. Why should I choose TROY?

TROY's Choral/Vocal Department is the perfect academic destination if you're looking for a variety of performance and leadership opportunities and a personalized vocal and choral education. We provide a wide variety of repertoire through our classical ensembles, jazz/contemporary a cappella ensemble, popular music ensemble, and opera workshop. There are opportunities for growth and leadership in each one of these ensembles that may not be available to you at a larger school. Our ensembles allow for meaningful relationships between students and instructors and provide students with safe, nurturing and challenging environments in which to vocally grow and flourish. We make it our priority to cultivate a musical culture where everyone is made to feel welcome regardless of fields of study.

2. When and how can I apply for a choral scholarship?

We have made our application process as efficient as possible for prospective students. Spring audition dates for those planning to enter in Fall 2022 term are:

1/29/22

2/26/22

3/26/22

4/23/22

To schedule an audition, fill out the form here:

https://troyuniversity.formstack.com/forms/vocal_choral_scholarship_audition

To allow for travel, auditions will begin at 1 pm. Once you submit your form, you will receive an acknowledgement from the choral office and will be contacted again as your audition date draws nearer with your exact time. All auditions will take place in Long Hall 107 (Choir Room).

All auditions must be complete by May 1st. If you accept a scholarship and then decide not to attend TROY, you need to let us know via email at troychoral@troy.edu before July 1st.

During your in-person audition, you will sing one piece of your choice that represents your talents. You may choose to sing your piece a cappella, with a track, or you may bring sheet music to be accompanied by TROY faculty. One of the voice and choral faculty will vocalize you (to further explore your range and timbre) and there will also be a brief sight-reading portion as well.

As a service to prospective students, we are continuing to allow an online audition option (but only in cases of health issues, long travel distances, unforeseen emergencies or other approved reasons). If you are requesting to submit an online audition, you must **FIRST** contact troychoral@troy.edu to explain your circumstances. Once you have done this and received our approval, please record yourself singing **two pieces** (representing contrasting genres). It is important to make sure that the sound in your recording is clear and that your video is high quality and well lit. You can sing these selections along with a pre-recorded accompaniment, live accompaniment (such as using piano/guitar), or just a cappella. We will accept auditions that utilize any of these formats.

Once you are done, upload the video as UNLISTED on a YouTube channel and share the link with us (making it accessible to us alone). We will then be able to forward your audition to other faculty members to evaluate your abilities. Please send all YouTube links with completed video auditions to troychoral@troy.edu.

3. How are choral scholarships determined?

Choral scholarships are based on the quality of your audition as well as the number of ensembles you choose to join. You must stay in the specified number of ensembles for your scholarship amount in order to maintain your scholarship. If you feel that your skills have improved during your time at TROY, you may reaudition for a higher scholarship or membership in one of the audition-only ensembles. You must successfully adhere to the requirements mandated by each ensemble (including minimum GPA and attendance requirements) in order to retain your scholarship. You are allowed to reapply yearly, if you meet the specified performance criteria.

4. How do I accept my choral scholarship?

TROY University requires all students receiving scholarships to create an Academic Works account at <https://troy.academicworks.com/>. Once you make your account, you must apply for the Troy University John M. Long School of Music-Choral/Vocal scholarship. After the drop/add date at the beginning of the semester, your scholarship will be applied. Once your scholarship is offered and applied, you will have to go back into your Academic Works account in order to accept your scholarship.

5. What types of pieces do I need to prepare for my audition and what do you want to hear in a successful audition?

In-person auditions require you to sing one piece of your choice. The piece can be of any genre (classical, contemporary, jazz, musical theater, etc.), and should showcase your range, quality of your instrument, and other performance abilities. We believe that the most successful auditions are authentic ones. We want you to sound like you, not like a recording of someone else. Notes are important, but we want to hear you tell a story as well.

In an online audition, we are looking for **two** contrasting pieces that illustrate the above criteria. The pieces can be of any genre, but it would also be helpful if they could show the different ranges of your voice. For example, if you are a soprano, choose a song that showcases what you can do in the upper range and another that shows your abilities in the mezzo-soprano or alto range.

6. Can I still audition even if I am not skilled in reading music or cannot read music at all?

Yes! There are unauditioned ensembles at TROY that do not require extensive sight-reading knowledge. Unauditioned ensembles include Collegiate Singers and Opera Workshop. These ensembles provide students with great sight-singing practice. Auditioned ensembles that require a higher proficiency in sight-reading include Concert Chorale and *frequency*. If at first you do not sight-read at a level required for the auditioned ensembles, you may always reaudition when you feel more comfortable reading music.

7. Do I have to be a music major in order to receive a music scholarship or join an ensemble?

We have students of all different majors in our ensembles. More than half of our ensembles are made up of nonmajors. We also have a lot of band students who participate in choir ensembles and receive scholarships.

8. How do private lessons work?

Private lessons are one-to-one 30-minute instructional voice lessons with an experienced vocal music faculty member. Private vocal study provides great opportunities for students to perfect their craft in a safe and educational environment. A typical private lesson will start with vocal warm-ups and then move to working on repertoire. Student repertoire can include music from any genre, but classical music will always be included in repertoire in order to build technique. For music majors, private lessons are supplemented by voice studio class which occurs once a week for 50 minutes. During voice studio, music majors get the opportunity to sing and workshop a piece they have been working on in private lessons in front of voice faculty and other music majors.

9. What sort of time commitment should I expect with each ensemble?

Concert Chorale meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for 50 minutes with an additional 50-minute sectional outside of class each week. Collegiate Singers meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for 50 minutes. Opera Workshop and *frequency* meet TTH (for 75 minutes). Unauditioned ensembles such as Collegiate Singers and Opera Workshop do not have weekly sectionals outside of class time. Private voice studio must be taken along with private voice lessons and requires an additional 50-minute time slot on Wednesdays (for vocal majors only). Ensemble and private voice instructors expect students to be adequately prepared for rehearsals and lessons which will require outside practice time.

10. How do I register for ensembles and private voice lessons?

In order to register for ensembles or private voice lessons, email music@troy.edu with your name, your student ID number, and the name and class ID (ex. Concert Chorale- MUS 3387) of the ensemble you'd like to join.

11. Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns?

The most efficient way to get in contact with TROY's Choral/Vocal Department is to email troychoral@troy.edu or call the choral office at (334) 808-6298.