



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 comprehensive performance and leadership opportunities and a personalized vocal and choral education. Troy provides a tremendous stylistic variety through our classical ensembles, jazz vocal ensemble, gospel choir, popular music ensemble and opera workshop. Troy's ensembles allow for meaningful relationships between students and instructors and provide 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.

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 2024 term are:

2/24/24

3/23/24

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, please let us know via email at troychoral@troy.edu before July 1st so that available funds can be used to support other students.

3. 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, vocal quality, and performance abilities. The most successful auditions are authentic: show us what you do best. Correct pitches and rhythms are important, but we want to hear you tell a story as well. You may choose to sing your piece a cappella (without accompaniment), with a track, or you may bring sheet music to be accompanied by TROY faculty. One of the voice and choral faculty will ask you to sing some simple exercises (to further explore your range and timbre) and check your aural skills and music literacy.

In cases of health issues, long travel distances, unforeseen emergencies or other reasons approved in advance, an online audition is permitted. For an online audition, you must **FIRST** contact troychoral@troy.edu to explain your circumstances. Once you have received choral department 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 a cappella (without accompaniment). Then, upload the completed video as UNLISTED on a YouTube channel and share the link with us (making it accessible to us alone). We will then forward your audition to faculty members for scholarship evaluation. Please send all YouTube links with completed video auditions to troychoral@troy.edu.

4. 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 re-audition 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.

5. 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. Please note: scholarship awards will not appear on your university financial aid account until after the Add/Drop period (first week of classes).

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

Yes! There are un-auditioned ensembles at TROY that do not require sight-reading knowledge: Collegiate Singers, Gospel Singers and Opera Workshop. These ensembles provide students with great sight-singing practice. Singers in these ensembles are eligible for scholarship funds. Auditioned ensembles that require a higher proficiency in sight-reading include Concert Chorale and *frequency*. If at first you do not sightread at a level required for the auditioned ensembles, you may always re-audition at a later time.

7. Do I have to be a music major?

Students of all different majors participate in our ensembles and receive scholarships. More than half of our ensembles are made up of non-majors. Instrumental majors often participate in choir as well and also receive scholarships.

8. What about private lessons?

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, and classical music forms the foundation of vocal 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 is the time commitment?

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. Gospel Singers, Opera Workshop and *frequency* meet TTH (for 75 minutes). 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 lessons?

Registration for ensembles and lessons is centralized through the music office. Please 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. Additional questions or concerns?

Email TROY's Choral/Vocal Department at troychoral@troy.edu or call the choral office at (334) 808-6298. We are available to answer any additional questions you may have.