

Indianapolis Women's Chorus

Audition and New Member Frequently Asked Questions

Thanks for your interest in joining the Indianapolis Women's Chorus! Please read below for answers about IWC, our audition process, and our season.

Who is the Indianapolis Women's Chorus? The chorus is a supportive and friendly group of inclusive women — we are young and old (18-60+), of many faiths and backgrounds, with a variety of sexual orientations and genders. We come from all musical backgrounds, from complete beginners, to seasoned amateurs, to music professionals. **Indianapolis Women's Chorus sings diverse and powerful music to build an inclusive community, inspire change, and nurture the human spirit.**

What kind of music does IWC sing? We sing music that gives voice to the experiences of women and honors women's lives, as well as music that expresses our common humanity with all people. We continually work to be more inclusive and expansive in our programming and sing music that demonstrates our values and mission from the perspective of equity, accessibility, inclusion, belonging, and justice. We sing a wide range of music, including: chants (ancient and modern), medieval music, religious music from many traditions, jazz, feminist/women's movement music, spirituals, music of global vocal traditions, newly composed choral works, and more. Our repertoire has included standards of the classical choral repertoire, and always features music composed by women, from historical composers to those working and innovating today. Music is woven together to create a moving and memorable experience for singers and audience.

What kind of prior musical experience do I need to join IWC? Singers do not need to have prior choral experience in order to join IWC, and we welcome singers at a variety of skill levels. Music reading is very helpful, but it is not required. Some of our repertoire is learned by ear and taught by example. Many of our songs are performed from memory. However, ALL singers (from beginners to professionals) will find something to challenge them in IWC!

When does IWC rehearse? We generally rehearse on Sunday evenings from 5:00 - 7:30 pm, August to June. Our first full rehearsal for the 2023-2024 season will be August 20. We typically meet through the middle of June. Small ensembles may meet at other times. We have occasional additional rehearsals, an annual retreat, and social events such as pitch-ins. During the 23-24 season, we expect concerts in October and December 2023 and in March and May 2024, as well as some smaller performances.

What are the expectations for singing members of IWC? Members are expected to be prepared and present at each rehearsal, work toward musical excellence as a contributing member of the group and perform at season concerts and extra gigs if possible. Volunteering behind the scenes is encouraged for continuing members, and new members are always welcome to jump on board and share their skills. Members are responsible for their own performance attire (more details to come!) and pay an annual membership fee (\$120). Financial assistance is available. A Chorus Handbook will be provided to each member through our shared chorus member website. All members are expected to review and comply with the policies outlined in the handbook.

What happens at an IWC audition? Auditions are intended to be low-stress. They are really just a chance for us to get to know you, determine if you can match pitch, and see how you learn music best. Also, we want to find the right section (soprano, alto, etc.) for you to sing in. We would like to hear you sing something that you feel shows us your voice in its own unique beauty! You are welcome to choose your own song to sing (unaccompanied), and we will offer some familiar songs for you to choose from if you prefer. Familiar Songs include: America the Beautiful (Oh Beautiful for Spacious Skies), Amazing Grace, The Water is Wide, and Over the Rainbow. If you bring your own music, please be prepared to sing without accompaniment. You'll only need to sing one verse (approximately one minute). We'll also do some simple scales and echoing so we can learn about your range and vocal skills.

Where and how long is the audition? Auditions will be held at First Mennonite Church, 4601 Knollton Rd. Indianapolis, 46228. Your music audition should take about 5-10 minutes and will be followed by an opportunity to chat with some singers about what it's really like to be a member of IWC. Please arrive a few minutes early to fill out an audition form.

When will I know if I have been accepted? We'll get back to you within a few days once everyone has auditioned. Thanks!