

# Saltaires Chorus Audition Process



Audition for membership is broken into three phases:

1. vocal assessment
2. vocal audition
3. visual audition

You may participate in all phases simultaneously. These are designed to determine if you have the basic skills which, given dedication and hard work, will enable you to become an active member of the Saltaires.

## **1. Vocal Assessment**

In this first phase you will be asked to sing a scale, sing a simple melody, execute musical intervals and exercises, and harmonize to a well known melody. The process is designed to assess your ability to sing in tune, your current vocal quality and flexibility, tonal memory, proper breathing, and natural voice range. The ability to read music is not required to join the chorus; however, that ability or previous experience with choral singing will certainly help you to learn faster.

## **2. Vocal Audition**

After you have passed your first assessment, you are eligible to move on to the vocal audition. You will receive sheet music for two or more repertoire songs, as well as a learning CD of these songs with your voice part dominant. You are to learn your part to these songs on your own. While in the learning process, you may join the chorus on the risers during the Thursday rehearsals OR stand at the side of the risers at the discretion of the music director. Within a reasonable time (approximately three weeks) you are expected to perform the audition songs while standing on the risers with the chorus and sing into a hand held recording device. You will submit your recording to your section leader, who will determine if you have passed your vocal audition.

## **3. Visual Audition**

Simultaneously, you may participate in your visual audition. You are asked to express the mood of the song with your face and execute some choreographed moves designed to determine if you have the basic coordination skill required to participate in the chorus.

Many experienced singers, particularly men, have never participated in an a cappella performance such as ours, where the entire face and body are involved in presenting a song, and it may seem strange and awkward to you. Often we are not aware of how wooden we look until we literally perform in front of a mirror. Rest assured that presentation skills can be learned, and do not be discouraged if the visual audition takes several tries.

Once you have passed all three, you are eligible for membership in the Saltaires Chorus.

# Saltaires Chorus

## Applicant Routing Form

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter officials will initial and date the form as indicated. Do not go past the bolded double line until you have passed your auditions, participated in the Membership interview AND signed your Expectation Sheet.

| Step  | Responsible Chapter Official | Initials | Date |
|---|------------------------------|----------|------|
| 1. Meet Vocal Assessor, determine voice part, receive mentor assignment (optional), pass vocal assessment (skills test), receive Membership Information Packet*, and receive audition sheet music and learning CD<br>Mentor's name: | Vocal Assessor               |          |      |
| 2. Meet Section Leader and receive temporary riser position.  | Section Leader               |          |      |
| 3. Be scheduled for Saltaires music classes   | Music Education Coordinator  |          |      |
| 4. Pass vocal audition (recording)  | Section Leader               |          |      |
| 5. Meet Visual Auditor and Pass visual audition   | Visual Auditor               |          |      |
| 6. Attend membership interview and sign Expectation Sheet.  | VP Chapter Development       |          |      |
| 7. Receive Music Committee Approval   | VP Music & Performance       |          |      |
| <b>&lt;&lt;&lt; Mentor facilitates the remainder of the process &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>  |                              |          |      |
| 8. Receive Board of Directors approval for membership   | President                    |          |      |
| 9. Receive Membership application* and pay all applicable dues and fees**   | Secretary                    |          |      |
| 10. Receive Repertoire Music**  | Music Librarian              |          |      |
| 11. Purchase /receive learning CDs**  | Recording Librarian          |          |      |
| 12. Order/purchase chorus shirt and take measurements for Chorus uniform**  | Wardrobe Coordinator         |          |      |
| 13. Qualify for the performing chorus***  | Presentation Coordinator     |          |      |

Upon completion of this form, kindly return it to the Chapter Secretary for the chapter records.

**Notes:**

\*1. Membership Packet includes the Applicant Routing Form and the Expectation Sheet.

\*9. Applicants receive Application for Membership (Stock No. 3010, for new or dual members) or Official Transfer Request (Stock No. 3001) as required

\*\* These steps may occur anytime after Step 7.

\*\*\* This step may occur anytime after applicant is approved by BOTH the Music Committee and the Board of Directors

# Saltaires Chorus

## Expectation Sheet

The Saltaires would like to congratulate you on your decision to audition for membership in our fine chorus. We appreciate the dedication you have exhibited so far.

All members of the Saltaires Chorus must also be active members of the Wasatch Front Chapter. This means that, besides singing well and being proficient at choreographed moves, each member will be required to devote time, effort and commitment to the chapter.

This Expectation Sheet, introduced to each applicant during the audition process, has been developed so that each applicant will know what is expected of him as a member. The chapter expectations, shown below, are based on established standards in four categories: Attendance and Involvement, Music and Performance, Conduct and Public Behavior, and Financial Responsibilities.

Please read each category carefully and thoroughly. You will be given an opportunity to ask questions concerning these statements during the applicant interview process, which follows the vocal and visual auditions. At that time, you will also be asked to sign that you have read, understood, and accept the following statements. We will keep a signed copy and give you a copy for your files.

### What We Expect of You

#### Attendance and Involvement

As indicated above, the Saltaires have an “Active Members Only” policy. In addition to singing well and executing choreographed moves correctly, each man is also expected to serve on, or act as the chairman of, no less than one committee, or be accountable for no less than one position of major responsibility within the chorus. Regardless of how large the chapter becomes, there are more than enough jobs to go around.

In keeping with the chapter’s “Active Members Only” policy, members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances of the Saltaires. While it is recognized that 100% attendance is not possible for everyone, a member whose attendance falls substantially below the chorus average during any 3 month period is subject to review by the Music Committee.

Each member is expected to be active in the recruitment of quality new members, as membership is everyone’s responsibility.

The Saltaires produce three annual fund raisers: Singing Valentines, Spring Show, and Christmas Show. During these seasons, each member is expected to be actively involved in selling show tickets.

#### Music and Performance

The Saltaires Chorus is dedicated to musical excellence, which means striving to become the very best men’s singing organization in the world. Every member must be dedicated to achieving absolute excellence in choral sound, production and showmanship.

The Saltaires require each member to be able to follow the music director, his assistants, and/or coaches; memorize the chorus music; memorize and accomplish the presentation elements and motions; attend rehearsals on time; and accept the responsibility of singing with the chorus at its public appearances.

Participation as a chorus member, with the privilege of singing in public appearances and in Society competitions, will not be allowed if a member’s attendance at chapter rehearsals prior to these events does not meet the expectations established and made public by the Music Committee. Exceptions can be made on an individual basis and for good cause shown, only by the Music Committee.

Prior to any rehearsal or performance, and at the discretion of the music director or the music committee, a proficiency in notes and words may be required through the use of a recorder, participation in a quartet, or any other method deemed appropriate by the Music Committee. It will not be unusual if some members are asked to demonstrate vocal proficiency by singing into a recorder while others are asked to demonstrate proficiency in

some other manner. In addition, special demonstrations of stage presence may be required. It must also be understood that all members appearing on the risers for any rehearsal or performance by the chapter do so at the discretion of the Music Committee.

### **Conduct and Public Behavior**

The Saltaires will always be first class in everything they do. Being a first-class organization means never accepting anything less than the highest quality in how we perform, how we look, where we meet, how we administer our chapter and, most importantly, how we conduct ourselves in public when representing the chorus. Our musical and administrative standards are high and they will be enforced.

The Saltaires expect each and every member to maintain a positive attitude while at rehearsals and at other functions where other chorus members and/or non-members are in attendance. This is not to say that you cannot have an opinion or make a suggestion. This does mean, however, that the chapter will not permit any form of public negativity. If you feel there is a problem that needs to be addressed or if you have a complaint, you will be required to bring it to the attention of the Board Member-At-Large, in private, and preferably in writing, for the purpose of discussion and resolution by the Board of Directors.

The Saltaires expect each member to read and abide by the chapter's policies and procedures that may be promulgated from time to time by the Board of Directors.

### **Financial Responsibilities**

The Saltaires expect members to be financially responsible to the chapter in the payment of dues and all other monetary obligations. Total first-year dues for the new members (not transfers or dual memberships) are \$144.00, of which \$10 is a one-time only administrative charge to enroll you at the Society Headquarters. These amounts may be changed from time to time by formal action of the Chapter, District or Society. The chapter Secretary and /or Treasurer can assist you with information regarding transfers, dual memberships, student and senior discounts.

The breakdown on dues is as follows:

|                       |       |   |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| Society dues          | \$87  |   |
| District Dues         | \$23  |   |
| Chapter dues          | \$24  |   |
| Enrollment fee        | \$10  |   |
| Total First Year dues | \$149 | Full time students and seniors are entitled to a discount |

The Saltaires also require new members to pay for their uniform as follows:

Tuxedo, etc.                      Approximately \$200.00

Members are also expected to purchase casual chorus attire. The cost of these may vary. It is the member's responsibility to keep his uniform and casual attire clean, pressed, and in good condition.

The Saltaires compete periodically at district and international chorus contests. As both competitors and conventioners, members are expected to pay for their convention registrations. Typically, individual registration fees are approximately \$150 for international and \$65 for District contests. Other out-of-pocket expenses for attendance and participation at these conventions (competitions) includes airfare and hotel, shuttle service, meals, etc. The cost of travel and meals for local shows and performances is the member's responsibility.

### **Statement of Acceptance**

I have read each statement within this Expectation Sheet. I fully understand each paragraph and the overall membership requirements of the Saltaires Chorus and I fully agree with these policies. Realizing its importance to the advancement of the Saltaires Chorus and the Barbershop Harmony Society as a whole, I enthusiastically pledge my support!

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_