



Nova Scotia  
**Choral**  
Federation

**nscf**  
Nova Scotia Youth Choir

1113 Marginal Road  
Halifax, NS - B3H 4P7  
tel 902-423-4688  
toll free 1-888-672-3969  
fax 902-422-0881  
office@nscf.ca  
www.nscf.ca

## **AUDITION INFORMATION FOR SINGERS:**

### **What is the Nova Scotia Youth Choir?**

Through auditions, approximately 40 singers ages **16-25** will be chosen to work with a faculty of fine musicians dedicated to excellence in vocal performance and musicianship. They will provide them a challenging opportunity to work, develop and perform choral music together at a very high calibre.

Choristers work with the faculty during two rehearsal periods in May and August. Final rehearsal sessions will be led by the guest conductor and will culminate in performances in Lunenburg, Wolfville and Halifax on September 19 and 20, 2020.

### **How Do I Audition for the Nova Scotia Youth Choir?**

All auditions are coordinated through the NSCF by requesting a live audition in Halifax or by submitting video recorded auditions **by April 18, 2020**, and selected by the Resident Artistic Team.

### **What Does the Audition Entail?**

You will need to perform one short solo piece from the classical genre, performed in the bel canto singing style. You will also be required to prepare a quick study (sent out to you 24 hours before your audition) and to sing vocalises which demonstrate your vocal range. You must submit a choral/musical resume, a letter of recommendation, and a headshot-style photo. Please see the AUDITION GUIDELINES below and contact the NSCF for more information.

### **Audition Application Form**

[Click Here to Fill out the Audition Application Form](#)

**Audition Applications for live auditions must be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

# Audition Guidelines:

This document outlines what is required for your NSYC 2020 application and audition.

There is no audition fee.

**All live or video auditions will consist of the following:**

- 1 short solo piece of your choice;
- Vocal exercises that show your full range and tone quality;
- A quick study that will be sent to you 24 hours before your live audition or before your scheduled recording time for a video audition.

## Selecting your Solo Piece

Singers should choose a piece of music they feel comfortable with which demonstrates their musical ability and shows off their voice to its best advantage. Classical repertoire is advised, although not required. Songs listed for music festivals make good choices. Voice quality, presentation and total balance of choral sound are taken into consideration during participant selection.

## Quick Study

The quick study will be selected by the audition panel and sent to each chorister at least 24 hours before their audition or scheduled recording time. The quick study is often a simple art song in English, but does vary year to year. The quick study is used to test the singer's ability to prepare music on their own.

## Vocal Exercises

If participating in the live auditions, the audition panel will ask you to perform a few simple vocalises to assess your full range and tone quality. If you are submitting a video audition, there are two basic vocalises to be included at the beginning of your audition recording. These should be sung on an open vowel.

The first consists of a broken triad, sung ascending and descending (i.e. do-mi-so-mi-do), starting in the middle of your range and moving up chromatically until you are at the very top of your range.



The second is a 5-note descending scale (i.e. so-fa-mi-re-do), starting in the middle of your range and moving down chromatically until you are at the very bottom of your range. These should be sung on an open vowel.



# Live Auditions:

**An accompanist will be provided.** Please read tips below for a few important and helpful reminders about the audition procedure to help you have the most successful experience possible. **Please bring a copy of your music for our accompanist.**

Also, before you come to the audition, please make sure you have **reviewed the full website, know the rehearsal dates for the project period** and understand the days and times you will need to be at rehearsals: <http://www.nscf.ca/programs/nova-scotia-youth-choir/>

## **Audition Procedure and Etiquette - Assistance for Audition Preparations:**

- 1) Email a day or two before your audition to **confirm** the time and place.
- 2) **Make travel arrangements well before the day of your audition** and give yourself enough time for travel. Take into account unforeseen circumstances which might delay you. (eg. weather)
- 3) **Be professional and wear comfortable but nice clothes.** Treat it just like a job interview.
- 4) **Arrive ten minutes early** to check in, get settled and not feel rushed.
- 5) **Drink water the night before and all morning** to be well hydrated. Bring a reusable water bottle to keep your vocal chords well lubricated!
- 6) **Pick a piece that shows off your voice, but that meets the audition requirements.** If possible, be aware of accompaniment difficulty when choosing the piece.
- 7) **Bring a photocopy along, placed neatly in a binder, for your accompanist so it is easy to turn pages.** Never bring loose sheets of paper, this looks very unorganized and unprofessional. As well, too many mishaps can happen this way. Bringing a **copy for the audition panel** to follow along to is great as well.
- 8) Tell your accompanist pleasantly and clearly your tempo and point out any repeats or tempo changes. Remember they will be sight reading it! **Make sure to thank them afterwards.**
- 9) **Make eye contact with all your auditioners at some point during the audition.** You never know how much influence each one has in the process. Even if someone seems “in charge” of the audition, it does not mean they are the only one to “impress”.
- 10) **Memorize your music!** A song is not your own until it is memorized. The auditioners want to see your face, expressions, eyes, and personality through your performance.
- 11) **Do your best, be yourself and have fun.**

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number or via email listed in the header.

# Video Auditions:

For video auditions, singers must make arrangements for their own accompanist. To receive your quick study, you must send an email to [ryan@nscf.ca](mailto:ryan@nscf.ca) with your scheduled recording time. The quick study will be sent to you 24 hours before this time.

## Instructions on making your (private) YouTube audition video

- Do not use piano accompaniment for the vocal exercises.
- NO EDITING IS ALLOWED. Please record your audition as one uninterrupted video, making sure **that the camera runs in between pieces**, no matter how long the pause.
- Try to avoid speaking unnecessarily between pieces. Please state the title and composer of your solo piece
- **Turn off your phone while recording.** There is no need to stop for general background noise, such as a doorbell, unless it is so loud that it will affect the sound quality of the piece you are singing.

## Tips for making a better video for your audition

- Equipment - Try to use a digital video camera. If you have a choice, use a video camera instead of a digital camera that has video function (a high end video camera is not necessary). Ask your friends and family or music teachers and school if they have a camera you can borrow. Most universities and high schools have video equipment which you can borrow for free or rent for a very low cost.
- Video Quality - If you are using an HD (High Definition) camera, setting it to a lower resolution will save you time when uploading to YouTube (360p or 480p is good enough).
- Audio Quality - If you can, set the sound quality to better or best stereo, but no need for "Surround Sound".
- Camera Position - With consumer level video cameras, it sounds best when the camera is 10 to 20 feet away. If the room is more echoic or live, placing the camera closer to you usually helps. Experiment with the placement of the camera and find where in the room it captures the best sound quality. Use headphones to listen to the playback. Headphones provide better sound quality than most laptop or camera speakers.
- Test and adjust your equipment setup with one of your audition excerpts prior to recording your whole audition. Ask yourself these questions:
  - Does the sound quality on this video accurately represent my sound? Can dynamic contrasts be heard?
  - Is my diction clear?

If the answer to any of these is no, adjust recording levels/equipment placement/recording equipment or recording location.

- Adjust the video camera to show your whole body from an angle so that we can see how you sing. Ensure your music stand is not blocking the view.
- Have another person to help you start and stop the camera so that you can focus on singing.

- Recording your audition will probably take longer than you think, so give yourself plenty of time.
- You are allowed to record more than once, but only one uninterrupted video with no editing will be accepted.

### **Instructions on YouTube Upload**

- Sign up for a YouTube account or sign in to your existing account.
- If your audition video is longer than 15 minutes, you may have to extend the YouTube upload limit by clicking on the link “Upload HD videos in various formats up to 15 minutes. Increase your limit”. It is located on the YouTube upload screen.
- Follow the instructions on YouTube to start uploading your video.
- After uploading your video, make sure you do all the following 3 steps:
  1. On the application form, we asked you to provide an “Application ID” which would be your province, last name, first letter of first name. Enter your “Application ID” into the **Title** field on your YouTube video upload screen.
  2. Change the “Privacy Settings” to *Unlisted* – **DO NOT** set it to *Private* or *Public*.
  3. Test your video to make sure it works before sending us the link, which includes ensuring your “Application ID” is displayed as the title above your video. Copy/Paste the URL for your audition video and **email it to ryan@nscf.ca**. The URL of your audition video must be received before midnight on April 18, 2020 in order to be eligible.

**If you have any further questions about the audition requirements or process, please contact Ryan Henwood at the Nova Scotia Choral Federation.**

[ryan@nscf.ca](mailto:ryan@nscf.ca)

902-423-4688

<http://www.nscf.ca/programs/nova-scotia-youth-choir/>