



CSO Symphonic Chorus

Audition Requirements

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for the CSO Symphonic Chorus. The chorus is a project-based rostered ensemble that supports the choral requirements of the CSO as and when needed, dictated by the CSO's programming and repertoire.

In this instance, the 2018-2019 round of auditions work toward the CSO's performance of the Mozart *Requiem* on the 31st August 2019 as part of the Lamb and Hayward Masterworks Concert Series in the Christchurch Town Hall, conducted by CSO Chief Conductor Benjamin Northey. An outline of scheduled rehearsals for this project is included in this information.

The CSO encourages all those who audition to demonstrate their best, fullest and most well-produced sound and has therefore provided the following audition requirements to aid you in your preparation. It is anticipated that your audition will be no longer than 5 minutes.

1. Own choice

Please prepare and sing a short (**no more than 1 minute**) excerpt from a classical work such as an aria, art song, folk song, oratorio selection or choral excerpt. As a guide, a verse and chorus (or equivalent) shall be sufficient. **This shall be performed unaccompanied.**

In choosing your own choice work, please select something that demonstrates your tone, line of phrase and musicianship. Particular attention should be paid to presenting a confident and expressive voice.

2. Pre-prepared set excerpt [b.1 – 19 *Lacrymosa* – Mozart *Requiem*]

A set audition excerpt has been prescribed for your voice type and this is available as **part of this audition information pack**. Please prepare this excerpt for your indicated voice type in advance of your audition.

At your audition you will be required to sing this excerpt with a recorded accompaniment of balanced voices. This recording has

been included in the audition pack, to be used as part of your preparation.

3. Range Test (vocal classification)

You will be asked to sing some scales to determine range and therefore vocal part placement with respect to the 2019 CSO Symphonic Chorus project – the Mozart *Requiem*. This range test will be based on scales and these will take the form of:

- 1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1 ascending/descending in semitones; and or
- 1-3-5-3-1, also ascending/descending in semitones

Scales will test both upper and lower limits of range. Starting pitches shall be provided.

Timeframe and Rehearsal Schedules

You will be notified of your scheduled audition time along with the location of your audition one week prior to your selected audition date. Audition dates are set as:

- **Sunday 16 December 2018**
- **Sunday 24 February 2019**
- **Sunday 28 April 2019**

When the three audition sessions are complete (post 28 April 2019), auditionees shall be notified of the result of their audition and, if successful, will be supplied with additional information including complete rehearsal schedules. CSO project rehearsals for the *Requiem* engagement shall take place in three phases – prep sessions, full choral tutti rehearsals and finally full orchestral tutti rehearsals with the CSO.

The initial prep sessions are open to all successful candidates. All members are strongly encouraged to attend, where able.

However, some successful candidates will be advised that their involvement in the chorus is conditional on attendance of these prep sessions at the discretion of the Chorus Master. This is to ensure full choral tutti rehearsals run as efficiently as possible, prior to the limited orchestral rehearsals with the CSO.

These prep sessions will be run from a vocal and chorus coaching standpoint with a more focused learning and training component, as opposed to the later work/*Requiem*-focused choral tutti rehearsals.

Attendance at full choral tutti rehearsals and orchestral tutti rehearsals are mandatory.

Rehearsals for the current project (Mozart *Requiem*) in 2019 are currently scheduled as follows:

Prep (6pm – 9pm)	Full Choral Tutti (6pm – 9pm)	Orchestral Tutti
Sunday 26 May	Sunday 4 August	Friday 30 August (7pm – 10pm)
Sunday 9 June	Sunday 11 August	Saturday 31 August (10am – 1pm)
Sunday 16 June	Sunday 18 August	Saturday 31 August (7.30pm concert)
Sunday 23 June	Sunday 25 August	
Sunday 28 July		

We look forward to meeting you and wish you all the very best when preparing for your audition, and for the audition itself.

Please direct any questions to the CSO Orchestra Manager – Luke Christiansen

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