



AUDITION NOTICE

San Francisco Symphony Chorus

2018-19 Season

Ragnar Bohlin, Director

SF Symphony Chorus 18-19 Season

Stravinsky *PERSÉPHONE*

SF Symphony Film Series

Close Encounters

Beethoven *Symphony No. 9*

Annual Chorus Concert

Handel *Messiah*

Debussy *La Mer*

(women only)

Holiday Concerts

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Ravel *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*

(Semi-staged)

Mendelssohn *Lobsgesang*

Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin will hear auditions in June to fill openings in the San Francisco Symphony Chorus for the 2018-19 season. There are limited non-AGMA volunteer and AGMA openings.

Audition Dates

- **non-AGMA volunteer positions, by appointment:**
Sun, May 6 (4:00-9:00pm)
Thur May 24 (3:00-9:00pm)
Sat, June 16 (3:00-7:00pm)
- **AGMA positions, by appointment:**
Thur, May 3 (3:00-9:00pm)
Fri, May 4 (3:00-9:00pm)
Mon, June 18 (3:00-9:00pm)

Auditions take place at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue, SF.

To schedule an appointment, please email

[*chorusauditions@sfsymphony.org*](mailto:chorusauditions@sfsymphony.org)

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

In General

- **Bring a photograph for our files.** A snapshot is fine—it does not need to be of professional quality.
- Each audition will last approximately 20 minutes. An accompanist will be provided.
- Audition results will be sent in June.

Concert Attire

For future reference, each chorister must provide his/her own concert attire as follows:

WOMEN: Long black skirt or black dress pants; black, long-sleeved top with any (acceptable) neckline; NO TRIM or lace of any kind; black or neutral hose; black shoes. The outfit may be a black, long-sleeved dress rather than a skirt and blouse.

MEN: Black trousers; black jacket; black shirt; black long tie; black shoes and socks. This may be a suit, sport jacket and black trousers, or tuxedo (no tails).

Requirements for non-AGMA Volunteer Membership

- Continued voice training is strongly recommended.
- Strong choral experience.
- Vocal maturity, color, range and flexibility.
- Good reading ability and musicianship skills.
- Ability to pronounce languages including English, Latin, German, and French.
- Punctuality and discipline.
- Ability to control vibrato.

Non-AGMA Volunteer Audition Procedure

Phase I—Sight reading for David Xiques, Assistant Director

Sight read pitches and rhythms, progressing from easy to difficult. If you do not successfully complete the vocalizing and reading, your audition may end at this point, and you will be advised how to prepare for your next audition.

Phase II—Singing for Ragnar Bohlin, Director

1. Vocalize and check your range.
2. Perform a classical song of your choice, such as an art song, an aria from an oratorio or opera. Any language is fine.
3. Perform both of the following excerpts:
 - Brahms *German Requiem, Wie Lieblich* bars 1-43
 - Bach *Singet dem Herrn*, bars as marked on excerpt

Excerpts can be found at <http://sfsymphony.org/chorusresources>

Requirements for AGMA Membership

By agreement between the San Francisco Symphony and the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA), in 2018-19, 32 members of the Symphony Chorus will be paid for rehearsals and performances.

Qualifications of an AGMA Chorister:

- A trained voice of solo quality.
- Vocal maturity, color, range and flexibility.
- Excellent reading ability and musicianship.
- Language experience in English, Latin, German, and French.
- Continued growth and training.
- Punctuality and discipline.
- Ability to control vibrato, i.e. to employ as needed.
- Ability to sing out, not subdued.

A singer does not need to be a current member of AGMA to audition for an AGMA position, but acceptance of a paid position will require the singer to become a member of AGMA. A resume will be required.

AGMA Audition Procedure

Phase I—Sight reading for David Xiques, Assistant Director

Sight read pitches and rhythms. If you do not successfully complete the vocalizing and reading, your audition may end at this point, and you will be advised how to prepare for your next audition.

Phase II—Singing for Ragnar Bohlin, Director, and Peter Grunberg, Musical Assistant to the SFS Music Director

1. Perform two works or excerpts from works of your choice that are of contrasting styles. One song must be in a foreign language, and both songs should be memorized. Before completing the first song, you may be asked to move on to the other. The following may provide ideas and choices for your preparation:
 - *Style*—baroque, classical, romantic, period piece, contemporary.
 - *Forms*—art song, aria from an oratorio or an opera.
 - *Range*—demonstrate your vocal quality: dramatic low; rich middle; agile, bright, ringing top; flexibility, registration.
 - *Contrast of character*—fast/bright, slow/legato, sad, angry, etc.
 - *Musicianship*—selections should reveal strong qualities of musical expression and experience.
2. Perform both of the following excerpts:
 - Brahms *German Requiem, Wie Lieblich* bars 1-43
 - Bach *Singet dem Herrn*, bars as marked on excerpt

Excerpts can be found at <http://sfsymphony.org/chorusresources>

Prospective candidates may be asked to a call-back audition.

2018-19 Programs

ALL DATES AND REPERTOIRE ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

About Assignments and Openings: Your participation in the 2018-19 Symphony Chorus season will be determined by your quality of voice, musicianship, ability to blend with other voices, and availability.

- **Regular AGMA Choristers:** 32 AGMA Choristers are expected to sing all performances, but may opt to request leave from two programs in 2018-19, pending approval by the Chorus Director. Actual openings are not known until audition time, but there are usually 1 to 3 positions available.
- **Non-Regular AGMA Choristers:** AGMA Chorister Extras are needed for several programs. In addition, substitutes are hired on an as-needed basis to replace Regular AGMA choristers on program leave.
- **Regular non-AGMA Volunteer Choristers:** About 120 non-AGMA Volunteer Choristers are needed to sing at least four programs requiring 100 or more choristers. Non-AGMA singers may also ask to be considered for programs requiring smaller choruses. Because each program has different requirements, not all non-AGMA singers sing every program. We estimate 10-15 total openings for Regular non-AGMA choristers.

STRAVINSKY *Perséphone*

(120+ choristers)

MTT conducts

Tue, Sep 4, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Sat, Sep 8, 1:00-4:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Sep 10, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tue, Sep 11, 7:00-10:00p---TUTTI
Wed, Sep 12, 7:00-10:00p---TUTTI
Mon, Sept 17, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro – REQ
Thur, Sept 20, 6:30-9:30p—TUTTI orch REQ'D
Fri, Sept 21, 9:30am-12:30p—TUTTI orch REQ'D
Fri, Sept 21, 6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert
Sat, Sept 22, 7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert
Sun, Sept 23, 1:00-1:30 warm-up; 2:00 Concert

Daytime
required
rehearsal

HANDEL *Messiah*

(80 choristers)

Jane Glover conducts

Mon, Dec 3, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tue, Dec 4, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Dec 5, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Dec 10, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro – REQ'D
Thu, Dec 13, 6:30-9:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Fri, Dec 14, 6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert
Sat, Dec 15, 7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert

SFS CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

(60+ choristers)

Mon, Dec 17, 1:00-4:00p—TUTTI
Tue, Dec 18, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Dec 19, 9:30a-12:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Wed Dec 19, 1:30-1:45 warm-up; 2:00 Concert
Wed, Dec 19, 7:00-7:15 warm-up; 7:30 Concert
Thu, Dec 20, 1:30-1:45 warm-up; 2:00 Concert
Thu, Dec 20, 7:00-7:15 warm-up; 7:30 Concert
Fri, Dec 21, 1:30-1:45 warm-up; 2:00 Concert
Fri, Dec 21, 7:00-7:15 warm-up; 7:30 Concert
Mon, Dec 24, 1:30-1:45 warm-up; 2:00 Concert

Daytime
rehearsal
&
Performances

BEETHOVEN *SYMPHONY No. 9*

(120+ choristers)

MTT conducts

Tue, Nov 13, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Nov 14, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Nov 19, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro REQ
Tue, Nov 20, 6:30-9:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Wed, Nov 21, 9:30a-12:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Fri, Nov 23, 6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert
Sat, Nov 24, 7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert
Sun, Nov 25, 1:00-1:30 warm-up; 2:00 Concert

Daytime
required
rehearsal

MENDELSSOHN *Lobsgesang*

(100+ choristers)

András Schiff conducts

Tue, Jan 29, 7:00-10:00p--TUTTI
Wed, Jan 30, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Feb 4, 7:00-10:00p--TUTTI
Tue, Feb 5, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Feb 6, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Feb 11, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro – REQ'D
Tue, Feb 12, **6:30-9:30p**—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Thu, Feb 14, **9:30a-12:30p**—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Thu, Feb 14, **1:00-1:30 warm-up; 2:00 Concert**
Fri, Feb 15, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Sun, Feb 16, **1:00-1:30 warm-up; 2:00 Concert**

Daytime
required
rehearsal
&
Daytime
Performance

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS SFS FILM SERIES

(100 choristers)

Tue, Feb 19, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Feb 20, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Feb 25, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tue, Feb 26, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Feb 27, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro – REQ'D
Thu, Feb 28, 9:30-12:30—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Fri, Mar 1, 9:30-12:30—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Fri, Mar 1, **6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Sat, Mar 2, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**

Daytime
required
rehearsal

CHORUS CONCERT

(100 choristers)

Ragnar Bohlin conducts

Mon, Mar 18, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tue, Mar 19, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Mar 20, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Mar 25, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tue, Mar 26, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Fri, Mar 29, **6:30-9:30p**—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Sat, Mar 30, **6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**

DEBUSSY *La Mer (Women only)*

(100+ choristers)

MTT conducts

Wed, Apr 24 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Apr 29, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, May 1, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, May 6, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro – REQ'D
Wed, May 8, 6:30-9:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Thu, May 9, **6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Fri, May 10, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Sat, May 11, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**

RAVEL *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*

MTT conducts

(100+ choristers)

Mon, Jun 10, 7:00-10:00p - TUTTI
Wed, Jun 12, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Jun 17, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tue, Jun 18, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Jun 19, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Jun 24, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro – REQ'D
Tue, Jun 25, **6:30-9:30p**—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Wed, Jun 26, **6:30-9:30p**—TUTTI orch – REQ'D
Thu, Jun 27, **9:30a-12:30p**—TUTTI orch REQ'D
Thu, Jun 27, **6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Sat, Jun 29, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Sun, Jun 30, **1:00-1:30 warm-up; 2:00 Concert**

Daytime
required
rehearsal

