AUDITION NOTICE
San Francisco Symphony Chorus
2019-20 Season
Ragnar Bohlin, Director

**SF Symphony Chorus 19-20 Season**

- **Stravinsky** *Canticum sacrum*
  *Symphony of Psalms*

- **SFS Holiday Film Series**
  *It’s a Wonderful Life*

- **Handel** *Messiah*

- **Special Holiday at Chase Center**
  *Andrea Bocelli in Concert*

- **Holiday Concerts**
  *‘Twas the Night*
  *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

Annual Chorus Concert

- **Brahms** *A German Requiem*

- **Wagner** *The Flying Dutchman* (semi-staged)

- **Mahler** *Symphony No. 8*

Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin will hear auditions in May and June to fill openings in the San Francisco Symphony Chorus for the 2019-20 season. There are limited non-AGMA volunteer and AGMA openings.

**Audition Dates**

- **non-AGMA volunteer positions, by appointment:**
  Thursday, May 2, 4:00–9:00pm
  Saturday, June 22, 6:00-9:00pm

- **AGMA positions, by appointment:**
  Sunday, May 5, 4:30 – 9:00pm
  Monday, May 6, 3:00 – 4:30pm

- **Additional Mahler Chorus* Auditions:**
  Tuesday, May 7, 3:00-6:00pm
  Saturday, June 22, 3:00-6:00pm

*Mahler Chorus – These auditions will only be to participate in the Mahler Symphony No. 8 chorus.*
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
Requirements for AGMA Membership
By agreement between the San Francisco Symphony and the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA), in 2019-20, 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 [https://www.sfsymphony.org/About-Us/Careers-Auditions/Chorus-Auditions/Chorus-Audition-Excerpts](https://www.sfsymphony.org/About-Us/Careers-Auditions/Chorus-Auditions/Chorus-Audition-Excerpts)

Prospective candidates may be asked to a call-back audition.
2019-20 Programs

ALL DATES AND REPERTOIRE ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

About Assignments and Openings: Your participation in the 2019-20 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 2019-20, 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  
Canticum sacrum &  
Symphony of Psalms  
(100+ choristers)  
MTT conducts

Wed, Sep 11, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI  
Mon, Sep 16, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI  
Tues, Sept 17, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI  
Wed, Sept 18, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI  
Tue, Sept 24, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro – REQ’D  
Wed, Sept 25, 6:30-9:30p—TUTTI orch REQ’D  
Thurs, Sept 26, 6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert  
Fri, Sept 27, 7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert  
Sat, Sept 28, 7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert

SFS FILM SERIES • It’s a Wonderful Life  
(60 choristers)  
Justin Freer conducts

Wed, Nov 13, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI  
Tue, Nov 26, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI  
Mon, Dec 2, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro REQ’D  
Tue, Dec 3, 9:30a-12:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ’D  
Tue, Dec 3, 6:00-7:00 warm-up; 7:30 Concert  
Fri, Dec 6, 6:30-7:00 warm-up; 7:30 Concert

SFS HOLIDAY SPECIAL AT CHASE CENTER

Andrea Bocelli  
(80 choristers)

SFS HOLIDAY CONCERTS

‘Twas the Night  
Ragnar Bohlin conducts  
(60+ choristers)

SFS HOLIDAY SPECIAL AT CHASE CENTER

Andrea Bocelli  
(80 choristers)

Daytime required rehearsal

Handel  
Messiah  
(80 choristers)  
Ragnar Bohlin conducts

Sat, Nov 23, 10:00a-1:00p—TUTTI  
Thurs, Dec 5, 3:30-5:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ’D  
Thurs, Dec 5, 6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert

Daytime required rehearsal

Daytime required rehearsal
SFS HOLIDAY CONCERTS

**A Charlie Brown Christmas**
(60+ choristers)
Wed, Nov 20, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Sun, Dec 15, 2:00-5:00p—TUTTI
Fri, Dec 20, **9:30a-12:30p**—TUTTI orch – REQ’D
Fri Dec 20, **6:30-7:00 warm-up; 7:30 Concert**
Sat, Dec 21, **1:30-1:45 warm-up; 2:00 Concert**
Sat, Dec 21, **7:00-7:15 warm-up; 7:30 Concert**
Sun, Dec 22, **7:00-7:15 warm-up; 7:30 Concert**
Mon, Dec 23, **1:30-1:45 warm-up; 2:00 Concert**
Tues, Dec 24, **1:30-1:45 warm-up; 2:00 Concert**

**CHORUS CONCERT**
(80 choristers)
Ragnar Bohlin conducts
Tue, Mar 17, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Mar 18, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Mar 23, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tues, Mar 24, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Mar 25, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tues, Mar 31, **7:00-10:00p**—TUTTI maestro – REQ’D
Thurs, Apr 2, **7:00-10:00p**—TUTTI orch – REQ’D
Sat, Apr 4, **6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**

**BRAHMS A German Requiem**
(100+ choristers)
MTT conducts
Mon, Apr 27, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tues, Apr 28, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, May 6, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tues, May 12, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, May 18, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tues, May 19, 7:00-10:00p— TUTTI maestro – REQ’D
Thurs, May 21, 6:30-9:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ’D
Fri, May 22, **9:30a-12:30p**—TUTTI orch
Fri, May 22, **6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Sat, May 23, **7:00-7:30 warm-up, 8:00 Concert**
Sun, May 24, **1:00-1:30 warm-up, 2:00 Concert**

**WAGNER The Flying Dutchman**
MTT conducts
(100 Choristers)
Mon, May 4, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, May 27, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Thurs, May 28, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Jun 1, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tues, Jun 2, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Jun 3, 7:00-10:00p —TUTTI
Mon, Jun 8, 7:00-10:00p —TUTTI maestro – REQ’D
Tues, Jun 9, 6:30-9:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ’D
Wed, Jun 10, 6:30-9:30p—TUTTI orch – REQ’D
Thurs, Jun 11, **6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Sat, Jun 13, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Mon, Jun 15, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**

**MAHLER Symphony No. 8**
(100+ choristers)
MTT conducts
Tues, May 5, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, May 11, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, May 13, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Tues, May 26, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Sat, Jun 6, 10:00a-1:00p—TUTTI
Tues, Jun 16, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Wed, Jun 17, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI
Mon, Jun 22, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro – REQ’D
Tues, Jun 23, 7:00-10:00p—TUTTI maestro – REQ’D
Wed, Jun 24, **6:30-9:30p**—TUTTI orch – REQ’D
Thurs, Jun 25, **9:30-12:30p**—TUTTI orch
Thurs, Jun 25, **6:30-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Fri, Jun 26, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Sat, Jun 27, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**
Sun, Jun 28, **7:00-7:30 warm-up; 8:00 Concert**

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**Daytime Rehearsals & Performances**

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**Daytime rehearsal**