

HOUSTON SYMPHONY CHORUS AUDITION INFORMATION

2026-27 Season

For the 2026-27 season, the Houston Symphony Chorus will audition **all** returning and new singers.

Expectations and Procedures

All singers who wish to be considered for the season will participate in a **five-part** audition:

1. Vocalization to demonstrate the range, quality, and flexibility of the voice
 2. A Vaccai vocalise sung in Italian to demonstrate intonation, accuracy of singing in a language other than English, and tone production
 3. Intonation exercise - **NEW**
 4. Either
 - A cut from *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from **Messiah** (sung by singers who would like to be considered for placement in Messiah) - **NEW**
- OR
- **Hymn 511** (for singers who do not wish to be considered for placement in Messiah)
 5. Sight-Reading (a cappella)

Audition Materials: PDFs, practice, and diction tracks can be found on the [chorus portion of the Houston Symphony Website](#).

1. Vocalise

- Vaccai #5 in the singers' desired key (high, medium, or low)

2. Choral Selection

- **Messiah** chorus:
 - For Unto Us a Child is Born (Use the PDF located in the chorus audition materials)
 - Sopranos and basses sing from the beginning to Letter D
 - Altos and Tenors sing from Letter D to Letter F
- **Hymn 511** (in lieu of a Messiah chorus)
 - Verse 1: melody
 - Verse 2: alto, tenor, or bass line (**sopranos and altos will sing the alto line**)

3. Intonation Exercise

4. Sight-Reading

- Equivalent to Level 6 of "Sight-Reading Factory"

FAQs

Where do I find printed audition materials?

- Printed audition materials are accessed via the [Houston Symphony Chorus Portion: Chorus Audition Information](#)
 - [Houston Symphony Chorus - Houston Symphony](#)

How should I prepare for the sight-reading portion of the audition?

- The HSC sight-reading melodies are generated from Sight-Reading Factory, level 6
- Contact Julia.hall@houstonsymphony.org for an access code to Sight-Reading Factory.

Will I sing with live piano or tracks?

- Vocalizing will be led from the piano.
- The Vaccai vocalise will be sung to the practice tracks.
- The intonation exercise will be sung to the practice track.
- **For Unto Us...** will be sung to the practice tracks.
- Hymn 511 will be led from the piano.

Where do I locate the practice tracks?

- Houston Symphony Chorus website: Chorus Audition Information
 - [Houston Symphony Chorus - Houston Symphony](#)