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Audition appointments open for Cleveland Orchestra Chorus



(Photo: Yevhen Gulenko)

CLEVELAND — Audition appointments are now open for The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, the Blossom Festival Chorus, The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, and The Cleveland Orchestra Children’s Chorus.

Auditions will be held on May 21, May 29, and June 1 for The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and the Blossom Festival Chorus, April 20 and May 19 for The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, and May 19 and May 20 for The Cleveland Orchestra Children’s Chorus. All auditions take place at University Circle United Methodist Church. Appointments are required and can be made online [here](#).

“We always look forward to hearing new singers at the spring auditions. The thrill of singing with The Cleveland Orchestra and this wonderful choral community is unmatched. You won’t find this experience anywhere else,” said Lisa Wong, director of chorus for The Cleveland Orchestra. “We are proud to offer each of our ensembles at no cost to the members, thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors. The season ahead features many stunning choral works; if you have considered auditioning, now is the time.”

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus will join The Cleveland Orchestra on stage at Severance Music Center for six programs during the 2024–25 season, including Mahler’s Symphony No. 3 conducted by Klaus Mäkelä, the world premiere of a work by Bernd Richard Deutsch, J.S. Bach’s *Magnificat* conducted by Bernard Labadie, and the 2025 Mandel Opera & Humanities Festival production of Janáček’s *Jenůfa* conducted by Cleveland Orchestra Music Director Franz Welser-Möst.

This summer at Blossom Music Center, the Blossom Festival Chorus will perform Borodin’s Polovtsian Dances from *Prince Igor* and Howard Shore’s Academy and Grammy Award–winning score for *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*.

The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus is for students in grades 9 through 12 who are passionate about singing and expanding their music education. The Youth Chorus performs annually with The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra and frequently with The Cleveland Orchestra, providing opportunities to perform symphonic works not typical for high school students. Audition registration can be found [here](#).

Students starting in grade 4 may register without auditioning for The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Preparatory Chorus. Students starting in grade 6 may audition for The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus, which will perform the live score of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* with The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom Music Center and Mahler's Symphony No. 3 at Severance Music Center. More information is available [here](#).

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus also offers fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a degree in a music-related field during the 2024–25 academic year. Named after a longtime member of The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, the Shari Bierman Singer Fellowship is awarded to students who have demonstrated academic and musical talent. Up to three fellowships for the amount of \$3,500 each are available. The recipients will also receive additional guidance and mentorship opportunities through The Cleveland Orchestra. The [deadline to apply](#) is April 17.

Additional information on audition requirements, rehearsal schedules, and performances for the adult choruses and Fellowship can be found [here](#).

Photos of The Cleveland Orchestra Choruses are available for [download here](#).

With Gratitude

We thank **Iris and Tom Harvie, The Edward and Ruth Wilkof Foundation, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Outcalt** for their generous annual support of The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, and to those whose generous donations have made the Youth and Children's Choruses tuition free.

We thank **The Shari Bierman Singer Family and Mr. Eric A. Seed and Ms. Ellen Oglesby** for their generous support of The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus.

We also thank our entire community of donors who support the Annual Fund. Your generosity keeps our music strong for fans around the world

About The Cleveland Orchestra Choruses

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus is one of the few professionally trained, all-volunteer choruses sponsored by a major American orchestra. In addition to performing with The Cleveland Orchestra in concerts at Severance Music Center each season, the Chorus has appeared with the Orchestra on tour in Boston, Brussels, Edinburgh, Frankfurt, London, Lucerne, Luxembourg, Miami, Paris, and New York, as well as on television and in numerous recordings. The Chorus has also toured on its own, either a cappella or with other ensembles, to the Casals Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico; the Chautauqua Institution in New York; and to venues in England, Wales, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Germany.

Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and Blossom Festival Chorus members hail from nearly 50 Northeast Ohio communities. Together, the groups' 250 members volunteer more than 50,000 hours annually, through rehearsals and performances. The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus also raises money for their tours through

a variety of projects and events.

Today's Cleveland Orchestra Chorus was first formed in 1952 at the request of Music Director George Szell. During The Cleveland Orchestra's first several decades, a number of college and guest choruses appeared in performances, along with several short-lived attempts at forming a permanent chorus for the Orchestra's annual seasons. Soon after Severance Hall opened in 1931, the Cleveland Philharmonic Chorus was created and flourished for nearly a decade before going out of existence during World War II. It provided choral forces for the many staged operas presented under Music Director Artur Rodziński's direction.

In addition to The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, several additional choral groups have been created under the auspices of The Cleveland Orchestra: The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus (founded in 1967), the Blossom Festival Chorus (created in 1968 for performances at the Orchestra's summer home), The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus (founded in 1991 for high school students), and the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Community Chorus (first assembled in 1989 under the name Cleveland Community Gospel Chorus and formally rechristened with the reopening of Severance Hall in 2000).

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