



Choral Canada  
Canada Choral

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NYC  
CNJ

National Youth Choir  
of Canada  
Chœur national des  
jeunes du Canada



## AUDITION INFORMATION FOR SINGERS

### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF CANADA?

A project of Choral Canada, the National Youth Choir of Canada (NYCC) is a professional development program for Canada's best emerging choral singers. Singers between 19 and 26 are traditionally auditioned every two years, with up to 4 singers chosen from each province and territory. Singers must be between the ages of 19 and 26 as of May 2, 2020. The NYCC convenes in a different region every two years, in association with PODIUM, Canada's national biennial choral conference and festival. After a week-long rehearsal camp, the NYCC embarks on a provincial tour. For 2020, PODIUM will be held in Montreal, Quebec. Each year, a NYCC conductor is nominated by the Choral Canada membership and selected by a panel of their peers.

Please note that all NYCC rehearsals will be conducted in English. The conductor is bilingual.

### WHEN AND WHERE IS NYC 2020?

The NYC 2020 training week will take place in Québec City, Quebec, from May 2 - 8, 2020. The choir will then tour through Québec, performing concerts and outreach workshops, then arrive in Montreal on May 14 to participate in *PODIUM 2020: Singing towards the future*. The NYCC will perform a PODIUM Highlight Concert on May 15, be the choir in the Choral Canada Student Chapter conducting master class, and have complimentary passes to attend PODIUM as delegates. This is an opportunity for education, networking, exposure to fantastic concerts and choirs, and an unforgettable choral experience. Singers return home on May 18, 2020. Singers are required to be onsite and to travel with the choir for the duration of the training week and tour, and must not have any other professional or personal commitments during that time which would interfere with their ability to participate in all activities of the NYCC.

### WHO IS THE CONDUCTOR?

Maestro Jean-Sébastien Vallée is an internationally recognized conductor, scholar, and pedagogue. Dr. Vallée is Music Director of the Ottawa Choral Society, director of the renowned choir of the Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul in Montreal, and Director of Choral Studies and Chair of the Conducting Area at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. Previously, he served as Director of Choral Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, and was on the choral faculty of the University of Redlands. In addition to his interest in choral, operatic, and orchestral music, Jean-Sébastien is an advocate for contemporary music, making it one of his priorities to premiere and commission works by young composers and to program rarely performed repertoire. As a scholar, Dr. Vallée has been invited to present his research at national and international conferences including those of the American Choral Directors Association, Festival 500 in Newfoundland, the National Collegiate Choral Organization, Podium (the national convention of Choral Canada), the Hawaii International

Conference on Arts and Humanities, and the 11th World Symposium on Choral Music, in Barcelona. Upcoming activities include UniSong 2019 in Ottawa, Howard Goodall's Eternal Light at Carnegie Hall, concerts with the Franz List Academy Chamber Choir in Budapest, and lectures at the 12th World Symposium on Choral Music in New Zealand. Maestro Vallée's work has been broadcast nationally and internationally by CBC Radio and PBS and can be heard on several recordings, including his recent albums entitled Lux (ATMA, 2017) and Requiem (ATMA, 2018).

## **HOW DO I AUDITION FOR THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR?**

Provincial and territorial auditions are coordinated through Choral Canada by submitting video recorded auditions **by October 18, 2019**, and selection by a National Jury. If you are auditioning from British Columbia, please contact British Columbia Choral Federation by phone at 604-733-9687 or by emailing [bccf@bcchoralfed.com](mailto:bccf@bcchoralfed.com) regarding auditions for singers from BC.

In all cases, we strive to select up to four NYCC singers (one for each voice part) and four alternates from each province and territory.

## **WHAT DOES THE AUDITION ENTAIL?**

You will need to perform two short solo pieces – one in English and the other in a language of your choice – from the classical genre, performed in the bel canto singing style. If you have expertise in another singing style such as pop, folk, or gospel, you're invited to add a third selection in the style of your choice. You will also be required prepare a choral excerpt (included in this document) and to sing vocalises which demonstrate your vocal range. You must submit a choral/musical resume, a letter of recommendation, and a headshot-style photo. Please see the APPLICATION AND AUDITION GUIDELINES below and contact Choral Canada for more information.

## **NATIONAL AUDITION APPLICATION FORM**

Add link for national audition application form (GoogleForms)

# **Application and Audition Guidelines**

**This document outlines what is required for your NYC 2020 application and audition.**

## **Additional Requirements**

- There is a fee of \$20 payable to Choral Canada to audition.
- Singers must be members of their Provincial Choral Organization if there is one; Choral NL, Nova Scotia Choral Federation, New Brunswick Choral Federation, Alliance Chorale du Québec, Choirs

Ontario, Manitoba Choral Association, Saskatchewan Choral Federation, Choir Alberta, British Columbia Choral Federation

### **All video auditions will consist of the following:**

- 2 short contrasting solo pieces, one in English and one in another language, from the classical genre, performed in the bel canto singing style;
- Prepared choral excerpt performed a cappella (THE CHORAL EXCERPT WOULD BE 8 bars FROM A DIFFICULT CHORAL PIECE, e.g. Bach' Motet)
- Vocal exercises that show your full range and tone quality.
- OPTIONAL: a third selection in a contrasting singing style, i.e. pop, folk, gospel, musical theater, etc.

### **Materials to Submit**

[Complete the online application](#). Once you have done that, to complete your audition package, you will be expected to provide the following, submitted electronically to [programs@choralcanada.org](mailto:programs@choralcanada.org) by **October 18, 2019**.

- Your **choral/musical resume**, outlining your choral experiences, musical education, and vocal training;
- Confirmation you have completed the NYC Singer Audition Application Form);
- The **link to your audition video** (recording, uploading and posting instructions below);
- A **signed letter of recommendation** from a voice teacher or conductor, that requires indicating what part you typically sing in your current choir, your sight reading skills, and your general attitude and reputation as a choral singer
- Your **headshot-style photo** (high quality resolution .jpeg only)

### **Selecting your solo pieces**

You may perform any two prepared pieces from the classical genre. One piece must be in English, and the other may be in a language of your choosing. Your selected pieces should demonstrate your vocal range, tone colour, and capability. Pop, folk, gospel and musical theatre songs are not recommended for the two required arias, they can only be presented as a third option selection.

### **Choral Excerpt**

Please prepare your voice part for the following 8 bar excerpt from *Jesu Meine Freude* by J. S. Bach. This is to be performed a cappella.

II (Röm 8,1)

20

Sopran 1 *p* *f*  
 Es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver-dammliches an denen, die in Chri - sto Je - su sind,

Sopran 2 *p* *f*  
 Es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver-dammliches an de - nen, die in Christo Je - su sind,

Alt *p* *f*  
 Es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver-dammliches an de - nen, die in Christo Je - su sind,

Tenor *p* *f*  
 Es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver-dammliches an denen, die in Chri - sto Je-su sind,

Bass *p* *f*  
 Es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver-dammliches an de - nen, die in Christo Je - su sind,

2  
 25

*p* *pp* *p*  
 es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver - damm-liches an denen, die in Chri - sto Je - su sind,

*p* *pp* *p*  
 es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver - damm-liches an de - nen, die in Christo Je - su sind,

*p* *pp* *p*  
 es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver-damm-liches an de - nen, die in Christo Je - su sind,

*p* *pp* *p*  
 es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver-damm-liches an denen, die in Chri - sto Je-su sind,

*p* *pp* *p*  
 es ist nun nichts, nichts, nichts Ver-damm-liches an de - nen, die in Christo Je - su sind,

Vocal Exercises

There are two basic vocal exercises to be included at the beginning of your audition recording. These should be sung on an open vowel.

The first consists of a broken triad, sung ascending and descending (i.e. do-mi-so-mi-do), starting in the middle of your range and moving up chromatically until you are at the very top of your range.



The second is a 5-note descending scale (i.e. so-fa-mi-re-do), starting in the middle of your range and moving down chromatically until you are at the very bottom of your range. These should be sung on an open vowel.



### Instructions on making your (private) YouTube audition video

- Do not use piano accompaniment for the vocal exercises.
- NO EDITING IS ALLOWED. Please record your audition as one uninterrupted video, making sure **that the camera runs in between pieces**, no matter how long the pause.
- Try to avoid speaking unnecessarily between pieces. Please state the name of your two selected solos. No need to announce your name, we will know who you are by your Application ID.
- **Turn off your phone while recording.** There is no need to stop for general background noise, such as a doorbell, unless it is so loud that it will affect the sound quality of the piece you are singing.

### Tips for making a better video for your audition

- Equipment - Try to use a digital video camera. If you have a choice, use a video camera instead of a digital camera that has video function (a high end video camera is not necessary). There are many choices for approx. \$200. Ask your friends and family or music teachers and school if they have a camera you can borrow. Most universities and high schools have video equipment which you can borrow for free or rent for a very low cost.
- Video Quality - If you are using an HD (High Definition) camera, setting it to a lower resolution will save you time when uploading to YouTube (360p or 480p is good enough).
- Audio Quality - If you can, set the sound quality to better or best stereo, but no need for "Surround Sound".
- Camera Position - With consumer level video cameras, it sounds best when the camera is 10 to 20 feet away. If the room is more echoic or live, placing the camera closer to you usually helps. Experiment with the placement of the camera and find where in the room it captures the best sound quality. Use headphones to listen to the playback. Headphones provide better sound quality than most laptop or camera speakers.
- Test and adjust your equipment setup with one of your audition excerpts prior to recording your whole audition. Ask yourself these questions:
  - o Does the sound quality on this video accurately represent my sound? Can dynamic contrasts be heard?
  - o Is my diction clear?

If the answer to any of these is no, adjust recording levels/equipment placement/recording equipment or recording location.

- Adjust the video camera to show your whole body from an angle so that we can see how you sing. Ensure your music stand is not blocking the view.
- Have another person to help you start and stop the camera so that you can focus on singing.
- Recording your audition will probably take longer than you think, so give yourself plenty of time.
- You are allowed to record more than once, but only one uninterrupted video with no editing will be accepted.

### Instructions on YouTube Upload

- Sign up for a YouTube account or sign in to your existing account.
- If your audition video is longer than 15 minutes, you may have to extend the YouTube upload limit by clicking on the link “Upload HD videos in various formats up to 15 minutes. Increase your limit”. It is located on the YouTube upload screen.
- Follow the instructions on YouTube to start uploading your video.
- After uploading your video, make sure you do all the following 3 steps:
  1. On the application form, we asked you to provide an “Application ID” which would be your province, last name, first letter of first name (ex. for John Smith from Nova Scotia it would be NovaScotiaSmithJ). Enter your “Application ID” into the **Title** field on your YouTube video upload screen.
  2. Change the “Privacy Settings” to *Unlisted* – **DO NOT** set it to *Private* or *Public*.
  3. Test your video to make sure it works before sending us the link, which includes ensuring your “Application ID” is displayed as the title above your video. Copy/Paste the URL for your audition video and include it in the email with your audition materials to [programs@choralcanada.org](mailto:programs@choralcanada.org). The URL of your audition video must be received before **DEADLINE** (October 18, 2019) in order to be eligible.

For more general information about NYCC, see the Information for Singers document.

**If you have any further questions about the audition requirements or process, please contact Choral Canada.**

[programs@choralcanada.org](mailto:programs@choralcanada.org)

647.606.2467

<http://www.choralcanada.org/national-youth-choir.html>

### HOW MUCH DOES NYC COST?

The fee per singer for 2020 will be \$1500. The tuition fee covers roundtrip airfare, program tuition, music, accommodations, rehearsal week meals, and ground transportation for the duration of the entire NYC program. **IMPORTANT:** Certain provincial organizations will be able to provide partial financial support for 2020. Please contact them for more information:

ChoralNL

Nova Scotia Choral Federation

New Brunswick Choral Federation

Alliance Chorale du Québec

Choirs Ontario

Manitoba Choral Association

Saskatchewan Choral Federation

Choir Alberta

British Columbia Choral Federation

The tuition fee is the sole responsibility of the singer and is payable to Choral Canada as per our payment schedule, upon acceptance to the NYC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR:

[programs@choralcanada.org](mailto:programs@choralcanada.org)

647.606.2467

<http://choralcanada.org/activities-projects/national-youth-choir/>