



Choral Canada  
Canada Choral

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NYC  
CNJ

National Youth Choir  
of Canada  
Chœur national des  
jeunes du Canada



## INFORMATION FOR SINGERS

### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR?

A project of Choral Canada, the National Youth Choir (NYC) is a professional development program for Canada's best emerging choral singers. Singers between 18 and 25 are traditionally auditioned every two years, with up to 4 singers chosen from each province and territory. Singers must be between the ages of **18 and 25** as of July 3, 2018. The NYC 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 NYC embarks on a regional tour. For 2018, Podium will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador. Each year, a NYC conductor is nominated by the Choral Canada membership and selected by a panel of their peers.

Please note that all NYC rehearsals will be conducted in English.

### WHEN AND WHERE IS NYC 2018?

The NYC 2018 rehearsal camp will take place in Corner Brook, Newfoundland & Labrador, from June 13<sup>th</sup> 2018. The choir will then tour to through Newfoundland to St. John's arriving on June 29<sup>th</sup> to be part of Podium on the Edge: Singing from Sea to Sea to Sea. Singers are required to be onsite and to travel with the choir for the duration of the rehearsal camp 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 National Youth Choir.

### WHO IS THE CONDUCTOR?

Conductor **Jeff Joudrey** is highly regarded for his vision, musical leadership, and standards of excellence in choral music. Founder and former director of the First Baptist Girls' Choir (1983 - 2012) and founder of Halifax Camerata Singers (1986), his leadership has provided challenge and reward for many Nova Scotia singers.

His choirs have established enviable reputations for performance excellence and innovative programming. The Halifax Camerata Singers has four recordings to its credit and, in addition to promoting choral music throughout the Maritimes, was awarded the prestigious Healey Willan grand prize as well as first place in the chamber choir category in the 2010 National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs.

Jeff is an enthusiastic supporter of Canadian choral music, and his choirs frequently commission works from both established and emerging composers. Committed to the development of young singers, conductors and composers, he has been guest conductor of the Nova Scotia Youth Choir's 15th anniversary tour and Unisong 2009 in Ottawa.

In addition to being director of music at Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church in Amherst, Jeff is chorus master of the Symphony Nova Scotia Chorus. He is also in demand as a guest conductor, choral clinician, teacher, and adjudicator. He has served on the faculties of Dalhousie University and Acadia University as well as the Nova Scotia Choral Federation's Institute of Choral Conducting. Elected president of the Association of Canadian Choral Communities in 2012, he also is a former president of the Nova Scotia Choral Federation. He has served on juries for the Juno and East Coast Music awards, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the association of Canadian choral communities.

A native of Nova Scotia, Jeff studied organ at Acadia university and the Haarlem International Academy in the Netherlands before going to McGill University to study with organists John Grew and Raymond Daveluy. His choral mentors include Canadian conductors Elmer Iseler and Wayne Riddell, and German conductor Helmuth Rilling.

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

### Fill in the online application

Most provinces and territories' auditions are coordinated through Choral Canada by submitting video recorded auditions and selection by a National jury. Others are selected by their Provincial Choral Organization or another local or regional representative. Depending on the province or territory, singers may audition live or by recording. In all cases, we strive to select up to four NYC singers (one for each voice part) and four alternates from each province and territory. In some provinces, singers must first be a member of their provincial youth choir or meet additional eligibility requirements to audition for NYC. Contact information for each territory/province coordinator is below:

#### NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606-  
2467/programs@choralcanada.org

#### ONTARIO

Singers already auditioned and  
selected by Choirs Ontario.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Choral Federation  
604.733.9687/bccf@bcchoralfed.com

#### NOVA SCOTIA

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606-  
2467/programs@choralcanada.org

#### MANITOBA

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606-  
2467/programs@choralcanada.org

#### QUÉBEC

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606-  
2467/programs@choralcanada.org

#### NEW BRUNSWICK

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606-  
2467/programs@choralcanada.org

#### SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Choral Federation  
gress@saskchoral.ca

#### YUKON

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606-  
2467/programs@choralcanada.org

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606-  
2467/programs@choralcanada.org

#### ALBERTA

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606 2467/  
programs@choralcanada.org

#### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606-  
2467/programs@choralcanada.org

#### NUNAVUT

Choral Canada: online audition  
647-606-  
2467/programs@choralcanada.org

## 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. You will also be required 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 **AUDITION GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS** document and contact either Choral Canada or your local audition coordinator for more information.

# Application and Audition Guidelines

**This document outlines what is required for your NYC 2018 application and audition.**

*There is no audition fee.*

**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;
- Vocal exercises that show your full range and tone quality.

**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 13, 2017**.

- 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, jazz, and musical theatre songs are not recommended.

## Vocal Exercises

There are two basic vocal exercises to be included at the beginning of your audition recording. These may be sung using solfège or any pure 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.



## 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 door bell, 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:
  - Does the sound quality on this video accurately represent my sound? Can dynamic contrasts be heard?
  - 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** (February 10, 2017) in order to be eligible.

For more general information about NYC, 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/activities-projects/national-youth-choir/>

### **HOW MUCH DOES NYC COST?**

The fee per singer for 2018 will be between \$1300 and \$1650. **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 2018.

The tuition fee is the sole responsibility of the singer and is payable to Choral Canada upon acceptance to the NYC.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR:**

programs@choralcanada.org

647.606.2467

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