

Loma Linda Academy Choral Department

Pro Musica / Canticles / JH Chamber Singers / JH Boys / JH Girls

Thank you for your interest in the Loma Linda Academy Choral Department! Below you will find information on each group, along with the academic, financial and audition requirements. Stay tuned for audition sign-up times.

The auditions for Pro Musica (grades 9-12) and Chamber Singers (grades 7-8) will consist of two parts: a vocal audition where I evaluate your voice one on one, and a choral audition where I evaluate your ability to sing in a group setting. Both portions take place in the HS choir room. Pro Musica auditions happen at the end of the school year/beginning of summer. Chambers Singers auditions happen at the end of the summer/beginning of the school year.

The Vocal Audition: I will ask a few questions about your singing experience, and might ask why you want to be in Pro Musica / Chamber Singers. Next is your chance to amaze me with a prepared solo (verse and chorus only – accompanied (accompanist not provided) or a cappella). After you sing, the next part of the audition will demonstrate your musicianship and vocal abilities– your range will be checked (high and low), then tonal memory (I will play a series of 5 notes, and you sing the exact notes back to me) and sight reading. The audition will take 7-10 minutes.

Choral audition: This is where you show me how well you work in a group. It allows you the time to demonstrate 1) Your rehearsal work ethic, 2) how quickly you learn, 3) how well you blend with others, and 4) if you can hold your part in a small group setting (quartets and octets). The choral audition will begin with a short warm-up, then move into a group rehearsal of the selected piece. After a brief rehearsal, I will ask random(ish) groups of 4 or 8 to sing portions of the piece. I will be listening/watching for (in order of importance) intonation, tone/vowels, blend, and solid choral habits. Please take note: notes and rhythms are not being evaluated. Make sure you have those completely learned before you come to the choral audition (you will have had access to the music for over a month, after all). If you are unable to sing correct notes and rhythms in this audition, you will not be considered for the group.

Ensemble Information:

Canticles / JH Girls Choir/ JH Boys Choir– These general choirs are open to any student who wishes to learn how to sing and improve their vocal technique in a choir setting (no audition necessary, just a vocal range check). Canticles is a UC approved fine arts accredited course. Both Canticles and Junior High Choirs perform approximately once per quarter. A calendar of performances will be attached to the class syllabus at the beginning of the school year. Tedious and time-consuming make up assignments will be available for missed concerts☺

Pro Musica & Junior High Chamber Singers – These are the advanced choirs at Loma Linda Academy. Pro Musica is a UC approved fine arts accredited course. In order to be a member of these choirs, students must pass an audition and be invited to join. Students in Pro Musica & Chambers are expected to commit to perform in all scheduled concerts (PM 25/CS 12) throughout the school year, have a positive attitude and sweet disposition in and out of the classroom, and be willing to be pushed to his/her maximum vocal potential in an intense rehearsal environment. Unexcused absences to performances result in a grade deduction of at least one letter and possible expulsion from the group.

Pro Musica has a mandatory tour every year. *The Financial responsibility* this coming school year will be **less than \$850** for the local driving tour. Also, tuition payments must be up-to-date before registering for the class and before going on tour. There will be fundraising opportunities available, but are not likely to cover the entire tour fee. Audition results will be revealed in July, so students should start working/saving early if finances are an issue. Please understand/accept the financial commitment when you sign this document!

For further information, feel free to contact Mr. Kristian Leukert at kleukert@lla.org.

I have read and understand all of the requirements necessary for my child to join these ensembles:

Student Name _____ Date: _____

Parent Name (PRINT) _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Pro Musica / Chamber Singers Audition Form

--- Please fill out this form **prior** to the audition and present to the instructor upon entering the audition room. ---

Name: _____ Cell phone #: _____

Do you receive texts? Yes No Address: _____

Email: _____ Name of Parents/Guardians: _____

Which group are you auditioning for? Pro Musica Chamber Singers

Voice classification: Soprano Alto Tenor Bass I have no idea

Grade Level (21-22 school year): 6 7 8 9 10 11 Have you been in a choir before: yes no

List ALL previous Singing / choir experience (including choirs outside of LLA):

5/6 choir JH Choir Chamber Singers Canticles Pro Musica Church Choir _____

Other choir or solo experience?

Do you play any instrument(s)? yes no if yes, which instruments and how long: _____

Are you auditioning for Wind Symphony? Yes No

If yes and if accepted in both groups, which would you likely choose? Pro Musica Wind Symphony

Have you taken voice lessons? yes no if yes, how long and with who(m)? _____

For most choir songs, do you:

- Easily hold down a part quickly Hold down a part after some practice
Hold down a part after drilling on your own Prefer to have a partner on your part

Do you play piano enough to play your part and learn the piece on your own? Yes No

What kind (genres/styles) of music do you listen to?

List ALL extra-curricular / honors activities you plan to be in next school year. (include: sports, instrumental or vocal lessons, church choirs, musical theater, mission trip, praise band MD's, honors/ AP, clubs, TIE, etc. Use back if necessary)

Audition Tips (meant to make you feel in control, not to freak you out)

1. **Arrive early and be on time** for your scheduled audition. Rushing to your audition is never a good thing, and being late already gives a bad first impression.
2. **Warm up physically and vocally before the audition.** Stretch! Be as loose and free as possible.
3. **Avoid caffeine, soda, chocolate, sugary drinks** before your audition - they're bad for your vocal cords and may make you more nervous. Avoid foods that cause excess phlegm, like dairy products.
4. **It's best to eat bland, familiar foods** the day of the audition.
5. **Don't perform on an empty stomach** - but do give food time to digest before you perform.
6. **Wear neat, comfortable clothing.** Look nice, but not clothes that cause excess tension.
7. **Have fun and let your personality shine through.** Remember to smile.
8. **Be confident** - sing confidently, you need to show the director you can perform under pressure.
9. Know your music, your words and the meaning of your words - inside and out. Remember that expression and interpretation will be important elements of your performance.
10. In Pro Musica, we perform various styles, you will need to **show you can switch between classical/choral singing and pop/gospel singing.**
11. Be prepared to **answer questions** about your own musical background and aspirations and feel free to ask questions about LLA and the Music Department.

Get some opinions about your song choice, but be sure to ask for objective feedback (to the extent that it exists). Sing two or three songs for family, friends or your vocal instructor, then ask them to help you pick on the basis of how each song accentuates the best features of your voice (e.g., tone, range, etc.), rather than on whether or not they personally like a particular song.

Select a song that is melodic and highly singable, as opposed to one that is repetitive and monotone (e.g., What Hurts the Most, Rolling in the Deep) that makes you sound like you're droning. Your song should cover a good portion of your vocal range, as you want to demonstrate that you have the ability to sing both high and low notes **well**, with good tone and presence (e.g., volume). Keep your song simple, but still show off your stuff. A little embellishment here and a little vibrato there may demonstrate your "ear" for music and your training, but too much busyness can be distracting and make it appear as though you are trying too hard to impress them.

Don't sing a song with obscenities in the lyric or with highly explicit themes. It is unnecessary to offend or shock, and there are other, more appropriate ways in which you can show off your edginess and style. Sing a song that is within your range, and that fits well in your voice.

From the very beginning, sing with full resonance in your tone, and fill up the entire choir room with your sound as much as possible. Show as much maturity in your sound as possible, and sing in tune (on pitch)! During the melody memorization, don't be afraid to ask to hear it again, but asking 3-4 more times will not be impressive. Have someone do a 'mock audition' for you so you get used to the process. May God bless you all as you prepare and audition!