

## **ELGIN CHORAL UNION SECTION LEADER AUDITION DETAILS**

### **Section Leader Audition Announcement**

The Elgin Choral Union (ECU) is proud to announce a new program to develop and advance its artistic quality. We are seeking dynamic, professionally trained singers to accept leadership positions within each section of the chorus. Two singers per section will be hired. Qualified external as well as internal candidates will be considered. Compensation for any given season, which runs approximately eight months beginning in late August and ending in mid-May, is \$50 per rehearsal, \$70 per concert leading to an estimated \$2000 for a complete season.

### **Qualifications**

- Bachelor of Music degree or equivalent experience required
- Previous experience in teaching voice, conducting sectional rehearsals, and/or singing in a professional ensemble desired
- Strong vocal technique
- Excellent sight-reading ability
- Sufficient piano skill to play a single vocal part
- Ability to inspire and support the singers in their assigned section
- Fluent diction in English, Latin, German, French, and Italian
- Ability to attend all Choral Union rehearsals and performances
- Some daytime availability for educational outreach is desired
- Thorough understanding of and ability to assist with rehearsal and concert etiquette
- Ability and willingness to maintain and extend the Music Director's vision within and outside the chorus
- Comfortable in a shared leadership environment (there will be two leaders per section)

### **Position Description**

- Assist Music Director in all rehearsals where needed
- Meet periodically with Music Director
  - o to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the section, review improvement plan progress, and revise as needed
  - o to review section leader's performance
  - o to make sure any questions regarding the music for the particular section are answered
- Conduct sectional rehearsals from the keyboard as needed
- Work with each singer in their respective section on a need-to basis
- Assist all singers in their section with music markings
- Spot check scores of individual singers
- Assist the Music Director in evaluating singers
- Advise the Music Director on the need for additional sectional rehearsals
- Assist the Music Director with educational outreach activities and opportunities
- Capability to sing small to medium-sized solos
- Serve as understudy for guest soloists

### **Audition Procedure:**

1. Send your résumé in advance. Also, bring two copies on the date of your audition.
  2. Prepare one Italian aria and one German Lied demonstrating your vocal range, stamina, dynamics, and agility. Bring one copy of each for the accompanist and one each for the Music Director.
  3. Take a sight singing and rhythm test.
  4. Take a sight reading test on the piano.
  5. Be prepared to articulate to the panel, within a 60-second maximum time frame, why you want to be a section leader with the ECU.
- An accompanist will be provided for your audition
  - The ECU Music Director, Andrew Lewis, will preside over all auditions. Additional panelists will be present as well.

**Auditions will be held the first weekend in August in Room 191D of the Visual & Performing Arts Center, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, IL 60123.**

For more information, visit [www.elginchoralunion.org](http://www.elginchoralunion.org)

To schedule an audition: call 847.214.7225

Send your résumé to [info@elginchoralunion.org](mailto:info@elginchoralunion.org)

Please submit your application no later than Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 pm CST.

### **Rehearsals**

ECU rehearses each Tuesday night at Elgin Community College's Visual and Performing Arts Center in room 164M, meeting from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Singers are expected to attend all rehearsals. Additional mandatory dress rehearsals are scheduled the week of a performance.

### **About Elgin Choral Union (ECU)**

The Elgin Choral Union, under the direction of Maestro Andrew Lewis, is the oldest performing arts organization in the Fox Valley. At 120-plus voices and growing, the organization works closely with other performing arts groups in the area, including the Elgin Symphony Orchestra.

Currently performing in Elgin Community College's Blizzard Theatre, the chorus has distinguished itself by its ambitious programming, critically acclaimed performances of master choral works, and commissioning several world premieres.