

REQUIRED HEARING INFORMATION WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Hearings are an essential element to your success at Westminster Choir College, and are used to determine many different factors, including voicing in core ensembles, as well as your placement in select ensembles. Hearings take place at the beginning of every school year, and are required of every student at Westminster Choir College each year.

Once you arrive on campus for orientation, you will receive your assigned audition time in your orientation materials. Hearings are conducted by the conducting faculty, and are held in Bristol Chapel. Each student must complete a hearing form online **Monday, August 15** (better yet, ASAP – as the form only takes a few minutes!)

The hearing form may be found by clicking on the link below:

www.tinyurl.com/wcchearingform2016

The hearing schedule for the fall of 2016 is as follows:

New Graduate Students: Tuesday, August 30

Incoming Freshman/Transfer Students: Wednesday, August 31 – Thursday, September 1

Returning Students: Thursday, September 1 – Saturday, September 3

Freshmen will also be fitted for their Chapel Choir robe on the morning of Friday, September 2.

Although orientation can be hectic, it is extremely important to honor your hearing time, as missing it may forfeit any possible spot in select ensembles as well as any solo spots available during the year. There will be no exceptions or allowances made if you are not present for your scheduled hearing. Also keep in mind that your hearing is treated, in part, as an audition – you should be appropriately dressed, and should also arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled hearing time.

Hearing Requirements

Prepared Piece

Memorize 1-2 minutes of a prepared selection. This can be an art song, aria, or folk song/hymn. There will be an accompanist provided, but we encourage you to bring your own accompanist. The staff accompanist will be sight-reading, so if you choose this option, keep the difficulty of the accompaniment in mind.

Sight Reading

You will be given several short examples ranging from diatonic (within a single scale/key) to chromatic. Take one minute to look at the line before singing. Solfege, numbers, or a single vowel are all acceptable methods. If you would like to practice, please get a hymnal or basic music text and practice singing individual lines without the aid of the piano. You can also find resources online.

Pitch Memory

A series of pitches will be played on the piano. You will then be asked to immediately sing them back after the first hearing. There will be several examples.