



camerata**xara**
young women's choir

INFO FOR AUDITIONEES

Camerata Xara is a unique choir that offers fantastic singing experience, electrifying performance opportunities, and a very special social community to its members. Xara is also a very demanding ensemble that requires a great deal of commitment, passion, and prioritization from its singers. In a nutshell, Xara is about :

PASSION

- More than anything, we commit our passion to the music, to one another, and to audiences because we believe in what Xara has to offer the Nova Scotian music community and us.

PERFORMANCE

- No matter what the circumstances, we will deliver first class concerts using our whole bodies, minds, and hearts to communicate with our audience.
- In rehearsals we will give our all, rather than just "going through the motions" and saving it for another, more important day.
- We commit to being prepared so that we can perform to our full potential as choristers in rehearsal each week and so we can do full justice to the music when it's time for concerts.

PERFECTION

- We will always strive for perfection in what we do. This does not mean that any one of us will always be perfect, but it does mean that, in the strength of our group, we can achieve a level of honesty, soul, and quality in our interaction with one another, our rehearsal process, and our concerts that make us the "perfect" choir!

DETAILS ABOUT THE 2010-2011 SEASON:

- Rehearsals are Sunday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Singers are expected to make Xara their top priority for this time and to let nothing interfere with their ability to be fully present.
- Xara singers practice their music between rehearsals. In fact, they often get together for impromptu sectional rehearsals (accompanied by tea or wine!) to go over their music.
- Once per concert preparation period, Xara has a "Power Weekend" – an all-day Saturday rehearsal combined with the regular Sunday times. These dates are available from the beginning of the year. Singers are required to make themselves available for these special (and very fun) days.
- The week before the concert will include at least one extra rehearsal (a dress rehearsal). This usually happens the evening before the concert, but not always.
- In 2010-2011 we will be participating in an international choral festival held in Newfoundland. It's one of the most respected festivals in the world and we have been offered the chance to give a special performance. The tentative dates for our tour are July 8-15. This will be an amazing experience and will also require fund raising throughout the year in order to keep singers' costs low.
- The tuition fees for participating in Xara are \$250 per person. This may be paid in one lump sum or in quarterly instalments. The actual cost of running Xara works out to about \$1000 per singer. The difference is made up through grants and ticket sales.
- First time Xara singers must pay \$40 toward the cost of their custom made Xara performance outfit. The actual cost of the outfit is approximately \$100. Our parent organization, the Halifax Camerata Singers, pays the remainder.

THE AUDITION PROCESS

To audition you will need to prepare two pieces from memory:

- one classical, accompanied by Xara's pianist (please bring a copy of the music)
- one jazz/pop/folk sung without piano accompaniment

In addition to your two memorized pieces, you will be led through some vocal exercises, take part in a brief interview, and do some sight-singing. Please bring a copy of your music resume (including all past music, theatre, dance, gymnastics, or other movement experience) and the names/contact info of two people who can serve as references for your musical skills.