



Blue Hill Troupe

Frequently Asked Questions about joining the Blue Hill Troupe

What are the dates for membership events for the 2018 season? The dates for the 2018 membership events are listed below:

Meet the Troupe	Tuesday, August 21 at 7:00pm
Applications Due	Friday, August 31
Cocktail Parties	Wednesday and Thursday, September 5 and 6 at 7:00pm
Frontstage Auditions	Wednesday, September 12 at 7:00pm and Saturday, September 15 at TBC
Backstage Interviews	Sunday, September 16 at 2:00pm and Thursday, September 20 at 7:00pm
New Member Orientation	Thursday, September 27 at 7:00pm
BHT Fall Meeting	Monday, October 1 at 6:15pm
Workspace Orientation	Saturday, October 6 or 13
Season Kick-Off Party	Saturday, October 27 at TBC

Who may perform in the Fall Show, Spring Show, and Concert Series? After their first year, both Frontstagers and Backstagers are welcome to audition for the non-G&S show. Only Frontstagers may perform in the G&S show and Concert Series. Acceptances into the frontstage is de facto casting into the chorus of all Spring Shows and the annual Concert Series as long as a member remains in good standing (i.e., up to date on dues) and commits to rehearsal schedules.

Who may come to production work sessions at the workspace? All Troupe members are welcome and encouraged to come! It may be called work but everyone considers it fun. You get the opportunity to be creative, learn new skills, use power tools if you want, and enjoy parties every Saturday evening after work sessions where all Troupers are welcome. We encourage Frontstagers to come down on their non-rehearsal day to pitch in, sew costumes, paint, craft props, or help construct set pieces.

Can I audition for a lead in my first Spring Show? Yes! All lead roles are by audition only, and Frontstagers are eligible to audition for leads in their first year. Auditions for the Spring Show are held in December. In fact, it is quite common for new members to get lead roles. If you aren't cast as a lead, you are expected to perform in the chorus.

Do Backstagers have performing opportunities? Although only Frontstagers may perform in the G&S show and Concert Series, Backstagers may audition for lead or chorus roles in the non-G&S show. Also, all Troupers may perform a song or other short act in the annual BHT Cabaret usually held in the spring. Backstagers may also audition to join Frontstage later if they decide they want to sing G&S.

What is the time commitment my first year? Being a member of the Troupe is a commitment. Without the commitment of members of the Troupe, the show won't go on. Your commitment gets the sets built, props crafted, and music learned. This results in wonderful shows with great production value and most

importantly earns money for our charity partner. Plus, you will meet and get to know members of your new member class and veteran Troupers who will quickly become your friends and family.

Fall Show: The 2018 Fall Show chorus and leads have already been cast. Once you get into the Troupe, Frontstagers and Backstagers are expected to jump right in and come to the workspace on weekends, sign up to usher, or do running crew.

Frontstage: There are weekly (Tuesday) vocal rehearsals from October to January, excluding some holiday weeks. From early January through the move-in to the theater there are two weekly rehearsals – Saturdays for principals and Tuesdays and Sundays for chorus. Anyone who has done a show knows that the last few weeks from the move-in to the theater through closing night are busy but also fun and satisfying.

Backstage: All new Backstagers are expected to give a commitment to come to the workspace at least 5 times a month. Backstagers are expected to be at the workspace on Saturdays (10am-6pm) and Sundays (12-5pm) in the spring season (January through theater move-in) unless they have other pressing commitments and help in the theater during the setup and run of the show. We understand you may not be able to make every weekend; however you won't regret the commitment!

If I audition for Frontstage and am not accepted can I audition in a future year and/or join Backstage? Yes and Yes! In fact, if you are not accepted into the frontstage, we encourage you to consider interviewing for backstage the same year. It would shift your commitment from rehearsals to the weekend production work sessions but would allow you to still be involved in all of the volunteerism, creative endeavors, and social aspects that Troupe has to offer. You are welcome to re-audition next year. In fact, the Troupe includes lots of people who have done just that, and they continue to be actively involved both frontstage and backstage. Even if you choose not to join backstage, you are welcome to audition in the future.

What should I sing for my audition? Sing a non-G&S piece in English, preferably musical theater or operetta. Sing something you are comfortable singing. You must bring sheet music for the accompanist in the key to be sung. The accompanist will not transpose for you. You may also be asked to vocalize, sight-read a simple melody, or perform some ear training exercises.

What are the 2018-2019 season productions? The fall show is *Once Upon a Mattress* and performances take place November 9-17, 2018. The spring show is Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* and performances take place April 5-13, 2019. Both productions will be performed at the Theater at St. Jean's located at 180 East 76th Street.

What organization is the charity partner for the 2018-2019 season? This year the Blue Hill Troupe is partnering with NYC Outward Bound Schools. NYC Outward Bound Schools transforms schools and changes lives by bringing their educational approach to NYC's young people and their public schools, with a focus on students from educationally underserved communities.

NYC Outward Bound Schools operates a citywide network of public schools in partnership with the NYC Department of Education that fully embody their educational approach. Their Network Schools use the national EL Education model, which is rooted in Outward Bound, and also feature intensive supports around college access and preparation, as well as leadership and character-building programming for students.

They also bring their approach and most effective and replicable practices to a growing number of public schools and youth-serving organizations outside of their network through Adventure & Team Building programs and Select Strategies professional learning services.

Since their founding more than 30 years ago, NYC Outward Bound Schools have helped to bring out the best in more than 100,000 students, preparing them for success in college, careers, and citizenship, while simultaneously working to redefine what educational excellence looks like in our city's public schools.

Partnering with the Blue Hill Troupe will allow NYC Outward Bound Schools to continue to transform schools and change lives for NYC youth, preparing students for success in college, careers, and citizenship while simultaneously redefining what educational excellence can look like in our city's public schools.

How much are membership dues? Annual dues for active members is \$80 and payable online or by check. Payment for dues will be expected upon acceptance into the troupe.

Where can I get more information? The best place to get more information is to talk to any Troupers you may know and come to one of the Membership Cocktail Parties. Feel free to ask the Membership Committee anything that isn't clear about our process or various aspects of Troupe activities. If you are not sure if we are the right group for you, we would rather have you come meet us and ask questions than have you potentially miss out on a fun opportunity to volunteer, perform, and socialize with a great group of people. You can also contact the Membership Committee Co-Chairs – names and email below.

Rebecca Brown, Denise Crawford, and Sloan Delfi – Membership Committee Co-Chairs
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