



Blue Hill Troupe

Frequently Asked Questions about joining the Blue Hill Troupe

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.

Who may perform in the Fall Show, Spring Show, and Concert Series? Acceptance into the Frontstage ensures participation in 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. Participation in the Fall Show ensemble is by audition only. For G&S operettas, only Frontstage members may audition (whether in the spring or fall). For Musicals, both Backstage and Frontstage members may audition (whether in the spring or fall). Concert solos are given to Frontstage members only.

Can I audition for a lead in my first season? 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. Auditions for principal and ensemble roles in the Fall Show are held in June.

Do Backstagers have performing opportunities? Although only Frontstagers may perform in the Concert Series, and G&S Operetta, Backstagers may audition for lead or chorus roles in the annual Musical (whether it is in Spring or Fall). 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 participate in the G&S shows.

What is the time commitment my first year? Being a member of the Troupe is a commitment. Without that commitment, 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 2017 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 through December, excluding some holiday weeks. From early January through the move-in to the theater there are three weekly rehearsals – Saturdays for principals and Tuesdays and Sundays for chorus. 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 commit 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.

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 David Loewy – Membership Committee Co-Chairs
admissions@bht.org