



Blue Hill Troupe

Frequently Asked Questions: Membership

What is the process for joining the Blue Hill Troupe? Is it complicated?

Every Summer we host a “Meet the Troupe” event to allow prospective members to meet us before filling out an application form. You can choose to join the Troupe either as a “Frontstager” or a “Backstager.” (These lines blur all the time!) But you don’t have to attend this event to be considered. There are two additional “mixers” for more opportunities to get to know us, as well as two different opportunities to audition or interview with us.

Frontstagers: If you want to audition as a frontstager, and automatically join concerts and the *ensemble* of our larger Spring Shows, we request at least 16 bars of a song in English (see “**What should I sing?**” below), and request that you learn your own voice part in our anthem, “Hail Poetry” (not memorized). You’ll get to sit with our Frontstage committee and chat with us for a bit, as well!

Backstagers: If you want to interview as a backstager, you’ll meet with our backstage committee to sit and chat about your backstage experience, or even your *in*experience! We’d love to know what interests you now, and what you’d love to learn, working on shows with us. Backstagers work on everything from set building, painting and design, to costumes and props, sound, lighting or stage management.

Once we contact you about officially joining, we’ll request payment of membership dues (this helps us run many internal events so we can focus on supporting charities with our show proceeds), and invite you to our New Member Orientation, to meet the rest of the new members!

If I audition for Frontstage and am not accepted can I audition in a future year and/or join Backstage?

Yes and Yes! 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 - something you *love* to sing. Please bring sheet music for the accompanist in the key to be sung. The accompanist will not transpose for you. You will also be asked to sing our anthem, “Hail Poetry,” in your voice part, to sing along with our committee (sheet music provided). You may also be asked to vocalize, or sing back a simple melody played on the piano.

Who may perform in the Fall Show, Spring Show, and Concert Series?

Traditionally, after their first year, *both* Frontstagers and Backstagers are welcome to audition for the Fall Show. Only Frontstagers may perform in the Spring 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, and the results speak for themselves. 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 Spring Show and Concert Series, Backstagers may audition for lead or chorus roles in the Fall 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 for 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 2023 Fall Show leads have already been cast. Once you get into the Troupe, Frontstagers and Backstagers are anticipated to jump right in and come to the workspace on weekends, sign up to usher, or do running crew (or any other job to help us put the show together!)

Frontstage:

The Concert Series holds weekly (Tuesday) vocal rehearsals from October to January, excluding some holiday weeks – concerts are performed mostly in late Winter, with schedule TBD. For the Spring Show there are two weekly rehearsals from early January through tech week – Saturdays for principals and Tuesdays and Sundays for chorus.

Backstage: We want new Backstagers to come to the workspace as often as they can. Our productions depend on us! Backstagers are welcome at the workspace on Saturdays (10am-6pm) and Sundays (12-5pm) in the spring season (January through tech week) and in the theater during the setup and run of the show. We also have *plenty* of committee and front-of-house roles to fill. We understand you may not be able to make it every weekend, but you won't regret the commitment!

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 Mixers. 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.

Valerie Browne, Jacqueline Taylor, and Paul Wilder – Membership Committee Co-Chairs
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