

Dear _____,

Thanks for coming along to *Spinnaker* and expressing an interest in joining us. The idea of this letter is to explain to you what we would like you to do as an audition to show you have the potential ability to be an asset to our group.

We will ask you to learn one part (tenor, lead, baritone, or bass) of a short song, and to sing it with 3 others from the chorus, who know the remaining parts. You will have the wonderful experience of singing in a barbershop quartet!

Now, I know that might sound quite scary, but we will do everything possible to make it an enjoyable experience. To start with, we will give you a CD which has the part you need to learn being sung on it, and of course a copy of the sheet music. The song is called, "How We Sang Today!" By now, the Musical Director (Mike) or Assistant will have had a chat with you and listened to you sing, to give you an idea of the part we want you to learn. We should also have introduced you to the Section Leader for the relevant part. (If this hasn't happened, let us know).

There's no rush to audition; we can do it when you are ready. If you want to practice the song beforehand, that's no problem either. Just ask your Section Leader to get you together with 3 other singers. We will agree with you a week beforehand when the audition is to take place.

In the audition itself, there will be you, the MD or his Assistant and the 4 section leaders (or deputies). The MD will ask you to sing the song with the 3 other Section Leaders. If nerves affect you, believe me you won't be the first; so if necessary the 4th Section Leader will be on hand to sing with you, and get you going. With your permission, we will record the session so that we can review it subsequently.

Don't worry, we won't be expecting anywhere near perfection under these conditions. What we are looking for is the potential in you, which tells us that ultimately you will be an asset to the chorus and improve its performance. This will take into account both your vocal ability and your ability to present a song.

You won't be told there and then the result of the audition. Instead the MD will contact you in the next few days, to let you know how you got on. This gives us a chance to review the recording if necessary.

If the first time you are not successful, the MD will give you feedback on the audition, and advice on what to do next. He may suggest areas to work on before having another go. If you were successful this will be announced to the chorus the following week, and you will be warmly welcomed into the chorus.

If you have any questions at any time, please talk to any of the music team, who will be happy to help.

Best wishes,

Spinnaker Music Team