

SPECIALS

Q – What is a Special?

A – A Special is an additional song performed during a concert, and does not involve the entire choir.

Q – How many members are in a Special?

A – Specials can range from solos to large ensembles. Most ensembles sound better with two singers on each part.

Q – Who may perform in a Special?

A – Any active FTS member may perform in a Special. A member may participate in no more than two Specials during each concert. To perform in a Special, a member must fully intend to participate in both concerts for the weekend.

Q – How do I become part of a group?

A – Groups are formed by individuals inviting others to sing with them. If there are no openings in the current groups, members can start their own group by asking others to join them. The groups select songs and plan rehearsal times independent of the choir.

Q – How are songs selected?

A- Songs must follow the theme of the concert. The leader of the group, assisted by interested members, selects several songs that will fit the make-up of the group. These songs are then presented to the group who make the final selection.

Also, songs must be no longer than 3 minutes (approximately) in length.

Q – How do I find a song?

A – JW Pepper (www.jwpepper.com) and Sheet Music Plus (www.sheetmusicplus.com) are two very good resources for locating music. Both websites will allow you to listen to songs. JW Pepper has a walk in store located at 6735 Sierra Court, Suite E, Dublin, Ca. Sheet Music Plus is only available online. Local music stores also have solo and choral music.

Q – Do I need to purchase the music for each group member?

A – Yes. Each member must have an original piece of music. In addition, you will need to provide the music for the FTS accompanist and the FTS Webmaster. All music for Specials is the responsibility of the singer.

Q – Can I work with an accompanist?

A – If you want accompaniment for rehearsals, you will have to make your own arrangements. Many songs have a piano accompaniment CD available for purchase. You can also request that your music be put on the FTS website and practice to the midi music. Several weeks prior to auditions, you should schedule time to practice your song with the FTS accompanist. You will need to have a few sessions with the accompanist and this involves a fee, generally \$40-\$50.

Q – How does a Special get selected to perform in a concert?

A – There is an audition process. Approximately 4-6 weeks prior to the concert, the Specials perform for the chorus. The chorus members rate the specials and may make optional comments about the performance. The Choral Director looks at the results and makes the final decision as to which Specials will be included in the concert. There is a limited number of Specials allowed for each concert, and only the very best solos/groups are selected. Decisions are based on many factors including presentation, energy and excitement, good harmonies, appropriateness of the selection and knowledge of the song. It is recommended that songs be memorized. All members of the group must be at the audition unless there are extenuating circumstances. All decisions are final.

Q – What if my solo or group isn't selected?

A – Not all Specials will be selected, for various reasons. Usually there is a good reason for not being selected. Understandably, it can be upsetting if you/your group is not chosen. Try again next time. The experience is fun and valuable, even if the results are disappointing.