

THE NIELSEN CHORALE ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR 2025-26 SECTION LEADERS

A Section Leader of the Nielsen Chorale is an auditioned and paid position within the Chorale. In addition to an expectation of excellence and leadership within the full chorus and Chamber Choir, section leaders serve as members of the select ensemble Ancora.

Section Leader responsibilities include:

- Sing the entire season
- Attend Monday evening rehearsals:
 - October 27 – Dec. 15, 2025
 - Feb. 16 – April 19, 2026
- Attend final (dress) rehearsals with RSO, chamber orchestra, and collaborating choirs as outlined in season schedule.
- Have all music prepared prior to rehearsals
- Assist with taking attendance in section
- Respond to questions and needs within the section and communicate regularly with Artistic Director.
- Comprise **Ancora**, Nielsen's 12-member select vocal ensemble

The 2025-26 season includes:

“Holiday Pops” with the Rockford Symphony Orchestra

This will be conducted by Kevin Stites on Saturday, Dec. 20 (evening) and Sunday, Dec. 21 (matinee). The program will include traditional favorites and lighter fare. Ancora will have a featured role in this concert.

Mandatory **dress rehearsal** Saturday afternoon, Dec. 20.

John Rutter “Mass of the Children”

April 19, 2026, we will revisit John Rutter's moving “Mass of the Children,” a work that Nielsen prepared in 2020, but was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid. The **Nielsen Chamber Choir** (approx. 40 voices), soloists, and professional instrumentalists will join youth singers of Kantorei, the Auburn High School CAPA treble ensemble, and the Guilford High School treble ensemble. The program will celebrate the rich musical heritage in our community and the important contribution of our youth.

Required **first dress rehearsal** with combined choirs Sunday afternoon, April 12, 2026.

Required **final dress rehearsal with orchestra** Saturday afternoon, April 18, 2026.

See next page for audition requirements!

Ancora Auditions 2025-2026

Auditions will be held on Sunday afternoon, August 24th. Other arrangements can be made if this doesn't work!

How to Prepare for the Ancora / Section Leader Audition

Please prepare the attached excerpt from the **Brahms "Requiem,"** (Kalmus edition, sung in German) that corresponds to your voice part. Please download the pdf and bring it to the audition if possible. It need not be memorized. We will also have original scores on hand for ease of reading.

Optional: You may also wish to prepare an additional excerpt of a vocal solo (with or without piano accompaniment) in a contrasting style that showcases your talent. The piece can be an excerpt from a choral work, vocal jazz, art song, or musical theater selection.

The remainder of the audition may include elements from the following:

- Vocal warmup to determine optimum range
- Experimenting with dynamics and vocal colors—with and without vibrato
- Tonal memory—a short passage is played on the piano and the singer echoes it
- Identifying and singing inner parts within triads played on the piano
- Sight reading a passage at an intermediate level

We look forward to hearing you and getting to know you!