

ONCUE 2025 Audition Information

Who We Are

ONCUE is an a cappella ensemble featuring smooth harmonies and creative arrangements, blended into a unique brand of top-notch entertainment. ONCUE has released 5 albums to date and performs at dozens of events each year. As a professional ensemble of the Youth Singers of Calgary, we are leaders in the organization, acting as mentors to younger performers, and our ensemble features members of YSC's staff, alumni, and community.

We participate in Youth Singers events, including the mainstage Jubilee shows; sing at our own performances; and book professional gigs, including corporate events, festivals, private events, and more.

We are a small ensemble of 12 voices and sing music ranging from 4-12 voice parts. All of our music is memorized, and we primarily perform on individual handheld mics. We carry forward much of our repertoire each year, so your first year in the group will have a steep learning curve as you learn the existing catalogue (with support from recordings and other learning tools).

You can see some of our performance videos here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBFF4D198B6D9A6F6>

What We're Looking For

- You're a confident vocalist with an engaging stage presence
- You're experienced in choral singing and can read music
- You're willing to learn independently and come to rehearsals prepared
- You can hold your own voice part in a small ensemble where everyone's voice matters
- You have availability for gigs throughout the year and flexibility in your schedule to add events as they arise

Rehearsals

We rehearse Thursday nights from 7-9:30 pm, September through early June. Rehearsals are held at the ATCO Performing Arts Centre (1371 Hastings Cres SE).

Performance Schedule

These are the performances and additional dates booked for the 2025-26 season thus far. More performances are always on the radar, and we ask members to make themselves available as much as possible when those requests come in. We are particularly looking for members with weekday flexibility for noon-hour gigs, especially in December.

New members' first-semester priority is learning Christmas repertoire; therefore, for our October performances, new members will likely only sing some of the music and/or perform on-book, depending on your learning.

October 18 (evening)	Performance at Light the Night fundraising walk
October 25-26	Youth Singers workshop and performances at Spotlight YSC event
November 22-23	Youth Singers workshop and Christmas dress rehearsal (Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday)
November 30 (daytime)	Christmas performance with other YSC divisions

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December 7 (all day)	Youth Singers Christmas show at the Jubilee Auditorium
December 13 (evening)	ONCUE Christmas concert
December TBD	6-8 additional ONCUE performances, particularly weekday daytime
January 31-Feb 1	Youth Singers workshop (one or both afternoons TBD)
February 20-22	ONCUE retreat (Location TBD; out of town – usually Canmore)
March 7 (evening)	Performance at Arts on 817 concert series (Strathmore)
April 11 (evening)	Performance at YSC Hearts Out gala
April 19 (afternoon)	Youth Singers workshop
May 2-3	Youth Singers workshop and spring dress rehearsal (Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday)
May 9 (all day)	Youth Singers spring show at the Jubilee Auditorium
June 6	ONCUE spring concert

Fees

Fees are \$800 for the year, plus \$110 in Youth Singers' usage fees for facility, equipment, and music. Payment plans are available, and if you are in more than one YSC choir, you only pay tuition once.

ONCUE earns revenue from many of our gigs, and after expenses, this is distributed to members via a revenue share at the end of the season. The more we gig, and the more performances you are at, the greater earning potential you will have.

Audition Preparation

- Please prepare a short, unaccompanied piece that shows off your vocal range, technique, and stage presence. Choose repertoire you're passionate about!
- We will prepare a few sight-singing exercises for you in the audition.
- If you're unable to attend in person, please send an audition video to dtlauderdale@hotmail.com by 5:00 PM on Thursday, August 21. Please introduce yourself on camera and sing an unaccompanied piece as above.
- Video submission instructions: Please upload your video to YouTube, Dropbox, Google Drive, or similar and send a link. Be sure to adjust the video's privacy settings to a shared but unlisted link so that we can view it without a password.

Sign up for an audition time slot here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094EA4A62EA4FE3-57755725-oncue#/>

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Dean Lauderdale, ONCUE Director, at dtlauderdale@hotmail.com or Alida Lowe, ONCUE Manager, at tour@youthsingers.org.