



Mira Youth Mentorship Application and Program Guidelines

Applicants must read and agree to adhere to the terms as outlined in this document.

Program Summary

Welcome to Mira, a mentoring program for sopranos and altos in their final years of high school. This annual program was established by Elektra to encourage singers to develop their love of choral singing and build their choral skills while providing an opportunity for them to rehearse and perform with Vancouver's adult treble choir, Elektra.

Due to programming specifics in the other concerts of Elektra's 24/25 season, Mira will join Elektra for *The Light of Hope Returning* in November, 2024. There will not be a Mira edition in spring 2025.

Application Deadline (NOTE: SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT for the 24/25 season)

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 11:59pm

24/25 Key Program Dates

Rehearsals with Elektra take place on the following dates on the west side of Vancouver:

Monday, November 11, 2024* 5:30pm - 8:00pm (light dinner provided)

- Please note that this is a Stat Holiday therefore no school

Monday, November 18, 2024 6:15pm - 8:00pm

Monday, November 25, 2024 6:15pm - 8:00pm

Saturday, November 30, 2024 10:40am - 12:30pm (Dress Rehearsal)

Saturday, November 30, 2024 6:10pm call for 7:30pm CONCERT #1

Sunday, December 1, 2024 2:30pm call for 4:00pm CONCERT #2

All events take place at Pacific Spirit United Church, 2205 West 45th Avenue, Vancouver

Eligibility and Considerations for Selection of Singers

Applicants must be sopranos or altos in Grade 10, 11, or 12 at the time of application and be active participants in their high school or community choir.

The Mira program, at the moment, is for students who can attend rehearsals in Vancouver in person on Monday nights starting at 6:15pm. In the future we may again be able to offer an online version for students to participate remotely from other parts of British Columbia. If you would like to be notified of those opportunities, please write to [Elektra](#).

Singers must be available for all rehearsals and performances. **Please carefully consider your calendar, your other commitments, and your ability to get to rehearsals on time. Discuss your intention to apply with your parent/guardian.** Carpooling between Mira student parents can often be arranged.

Up to 12 singers are chosen by Elektra's Artistic Director based 50% on the application form responses including recordings or in-school audition and 50% on the teacher's recommendation of the singer's readiness to participate and benefit from the program.

There is no advantage to being auditioned in person versus submitting tracks online. Singers who audition in person must still complete the application form and have their teacher submit their recommendation email by the deadline.

Previous Mira Youth Mentorship participants who are in high school and still participating in a school or community choir are guaranteed a spot in the upcoming Mira. Note that they must complete the full application form by the deadline, indicating a change in voice part if applicable. Returning applicants are not required to submit audition material or a letter of recommendation.

All other considerations being equal, students in higher grades will be given preference. Elektra also makes an effort to involve students from several different Metro Vancouver schools.

Application Process

Applying for the Mira Youth Mentorship program has three elements. All must be completed and received by Elektra no later than 11:59pm PST on the deadline. Do not wait until the last minute. We suggest you give yourself 90 minutes to get it all done. If you have any problems with the online application process, please email [Elektra](#) at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline. The three steps are:

- 1) **Sing three short exercises** (see page 4 below) that demonstrate the sound of your voice and your choral musicianship. You can provide this to Elektra in one of two ways:
 - a) Record yourself on your phone or other device and upload to the web. Copy the link(s) into the application form.
 - b) Sing in person for Morna Edmundson at your school, if appointments are made available. If you have auditioned in person, indicate this on the form.
- 2) **Complete the [online application form](#).**
- 3) **Arrange for your choir teacher or conductor to email** comments to Elektra's Artistic Director in which they describe your strengths as a chorister and your readiness to participate in the Mira program this year. Emails must be sent to info@elektra.ca with the subject line: "Mira Youth Mentorship Teacher Recommendation - [Applicant's Name]".

Costs

There is no charge to apply to the Mira Youth Mentorship Program. Successful applicants pay a \$30 fee at the start of the program.

If You Are Selected

Successful applicants will be notified per the timeline below. You are required to confirm your acceptance. If you are in Grade 10 or 11 and not sure if you have time to participate fully this year, do not hesitate to decline and try again next year. This will not count against you in next year's application process.

Elektra will send a package of the music to your school in time for you to prepare your music on your own or with your teacher's help. Your part assignment will be confirmed at that time. In the package, there will be a set of scores for your teacher as well, in case they have time to practice with you.

Mira participants are expected to practice on their own to meet Elektra's high standards, and to come to the first rehearsal reasonably secure with the notes, rhythms, and words of the pieces. Except if specifically notified, Elektra and Mira will not sing from memory in concert.

You will be contacted close to the first rehearsal by the Mira Coordinator. Please respond in a timely manner to all messages and requests. Notify the Mira Coordinator if you are unable to attend a rehearsal.

While we expect all Mira singers to attend all scheduled rehearsals and concerts, we know extenuating circumstances sometimes arise. The Mira Coordinator will advise a singer as to whether they have missed too many rehearsals to participate in the concert(s). No Elektra or Mira singer who misses the Dress Rehearsal will be allowed to perform in the concert(s).

Mira singers provide their own all-black concert apparel within Elektra guidelines. No one is expected to spend money purchasing new clothes. Elektra singers may be able to loan Mira singers appropriate clothing. A Mira scarf will be loaned to each singer before the concert(s) and must be returned to the Mira Coordinator.

Students who are ill with COVID or another communicable illness or who are feeling too unwell to attend a rehearsal or performance are asked to stay home.

24/25 Timeline

- by September 16, 2024 - Teachers who wish to have Morna Edmundson conduct in-school Mira auditions (Sept 16-20, 2024) should write to [Elektra](#). Schools should have a minimum of three candidates planning to apply to the program.
- September 16-20, 2024 (if arranged) - In-school auditions
- September 25, 2024 - Application deadline (application form with singing links and teacher recommendation)
- September 30, 2024 - Notification of results to all applicants and teachers
- October 7, 2024 - Accepted singers confirm intention to participate
- October 9, 2024 - If applicable, waitlisted singer(s) notified that a space is available
- October 14, 2024 - If applicable, waitlisted singers confirm intention to participate
- October 18, 2024 - scores delivered to schools

Questions? Please contact us at [Elektra](#).

Vocal Exercises to Record

1. Sing this three-bar exercise, moving up by semitones. Take your time after the two fermatas, breathing before continuing in the new key. Repeat until you are singing as high as you feel comfortable.

$\text{♩} = 80 - 92$

Mee- eh - ah - oh - oo - oo Mee- eh - ah - oh - oo - oo

2. Sing “O Canada” in whatever key you are comfortable with. Suggested key of C major for altos (first note E) or Eb major for sopranos (first note G). Please choose a simple, classical style rather than a belted, pop sound.
3. Sing a chromatic scale on the syllable “La” fairly slowly from middle C to the C one octave higher. Breathe at the top, repeat the top C, and sing a descending chromatic scale back down to middle C.

Chromatic Scale ($\text{♩} = 80 - 92$)

La la la la la la la la la la la la la

La la la la la la la la la la la la la