

Gold Country Band - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

updated 1.17.24

Q: Do I need to be COVID-vaccinated and boosted?

A: Effective now, COVID and flu vaccinations are not required for participation in Gold Country Band. However, members are strongly encouraged to stay fully vaxxed/boosted out of consideration for the residents and staff of the senior care homes we visit and your fellow band members (who are mostly seniors also!). Vaccinations are not just about protecting yourself; they're also about protecting others from the spread of infection. Also, please do not come to rehearsal or a performance if you have symptoms of any illness including common cold, flu, etc. Help preserve the GCB culture of watching out for each other!

Q: What kind of instrumentalists or singers do you need?

A: Check with the Conductor or Membership Coordinator to find out the Band's current needs (see page 4).

Q: How do I get started?

A: (1) Attend a rehearsal or performance to observe. The Membership Coordinator will ask about your experience and abilities.

(2) If you would like to return, ask to have the music sent to you.

(3) The second time may involve a casual audition. Since every person's background and skills are different, the actual auditions will vary, and may involve asking the new person to play a scale or a short piece, or sightread one of the songs, or the audition may involve just observing how the person plays in a rehearsal. The Audition Committee has the authority to decide how to handle each applicant's audition on a case-by-case basis.

(4) If you are invited to join, the Membership Coordinator will ask you for further information.

Q: What are your standards for playing? A: Players are expected to: (1) produce a good tone and play a range of dynamics; (2) read the music easily; and (3) follow the road maps.

Q: What are you looking for in a piano player?

A: Piano players need to sightread well and to play from a simple fake sheet easily (melody is given, with chord names written above the staff). There are no fully written-out accompaniments.

Q: What are the requirements for singers? A: Learn your songs well before rehearsal and memorize the lyrics. Must attend rehearsals to perform designated songs. New singers will be auditioned before being put on the schedule.

Q: Once I become a member, then what? A: You will be issued a

- 1) Blue polo shirt (band uniform; wear black pants when performing);
- 2) Blue binder
- 3) Members Handbook;
- 4) Band Roster

The Conductor will e-mail the music to you. Please put it in order in the blue binder ahead of the rehearsal.

Q: When do you rehearse and perform, and where?

A: Rehearsals are normally the first Monday mornings at 10:00 at Unity of Auburn, 1212 High Street. Performances are at 10:00 on the other Mondays, at retirement and convalescent homes from Roseville to Auburn.

Q: What should I bring (in addition to music and instrument)?

A: Music stand. Also, stand lights are recommended because many places have dim lighting, including the rehearsal hall.

Q: Am I required to pay dues? A: No, not at this time.

Q: Do you have a website? ... an e-mail I can write to with questions? maryrose@wavecable.com

A: We have a page on the SVSBA website: svsba.net/gold-country-band