

**SONGFEST 2020**  
**Host Audition Packet**

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# **SONGFEST 2020**

**Wed. March 18 – Sat. March 21**  
**Smothers Theatre**

*Initial Auditions:*

**Wednesday, October 23**

**4:30 – 7:30 PM**

**(5-minute appointments)**

**Raitt Recital Hall**

*Call-Back Auditions:*

**Friday, October 25**

**2:45 – 6:45 PM**

**(by invitation only)**

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*\*Must be completed and brought to the Initial Audition.*

pepperdinesongfest.com  
songfest@pepperdine.edu  
(310) 506-6729

# Songfest 2020

## Host Audition Information

*Keep this for your own information.*

All Seaver College students are invited to audition for a role as a Songfest host. We are looking for musical talent, charisma, enthusiasm, a willingness and ability to work with others and to serve as an ambassador for the University, fluid movement and ability to learn choreography, a serious commitment to the group, a high work ethic, and most importantly, a quick wit, unique personality, and an entertaining demeanor. No egos!

### I. INITIAL AUDITIONS

The initial host auditions will be held in Raitt Recital Hall on Wednesday, October 23 between 4:30 and 7:30 PM. Sign-up online for a 5-minute audition appointment at [pepperdinesongfest.com](http://pepperdinesongfest.com).

At these initial auditions there are three things required of all candidates:

#### 1. COMPLETED AUDITION PAPERWORK

Before auditioning, host candidates must complete and submit both the *Host Audition Form* and the *Host Commitment Agreement* (make sure it's signed!). *Please- no resumes, headshots, etc.*

#### 2. GROUP INTRODUCTION

Please pick a fictitious Songfest group (see the attached list of group names and show descriptions) to be the subject of a show introduction. Work up a brief (no longer than 30 seconds) public introduction/welcome for your chosen group, as if it were being done in a Songfest performance. Be sure to include both the group name and the show title in the ending of your intro. Try to make the intro interesting, witty, professional, creative, and entertaining.

#### 3. MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Bring sheet music for two musical selections – preferably differing in style (such as a slow ballad and a more upbeat song). Pick selections that best show off your voice. Have the songs MEMORIZED, and add whatever simple movements you feel are appropriate (if any). Elaborate choreography is not necessary. Remember that the point is to look and sound professional at all times.

A piano accompanist will be provided for you. Be fully familiar with your sheet music **BEFOREHAND**, so that you can instruct the accompanist in an efficient manner. Due to schedule limitations, there isn't time to sing each song in its entirety: therefore, it would be wise to sing just a couple sections of your song, or select a shorter song. You may be asked to stop singing before the end of what you've prepared. You may choose to sing a *cappella* (without piano accompaniment), but we *strongly prefer* candidates who sing with piano accompaniment.

### II. ACCOMPANIST APPOINTMENTS (OPTIONAL)

In some years, host candidates may have the opportunity to schedule an appointment with the audition accompanist *before* the initial auditions. During an accompanist appointment, candidates may wish to discuss their sheet music, rehearse their song(s), ask questions, or do anything else that might help them feel better prepared for their upcoming audition. *These appointments are optional*

*and are NOT required, though we strongly encourage all candidates to take advantage of this opportunity (if available).*

Accompanist appointments may become available at any date prior to the initial auditions, but are not offered every year. For the latest update as to the availability of accompanist appointments, candidates may email [songfest@pepperdine.edu](mailto:songfest@pepperdine.edu) or visit [pepperdinesongfest.com/hostauditions](http://pepperdinesongfest.com/hostauditions).

### **III. CALL-BACK AUDITIONS**

For those who receive an invitation, call-back auditions will take place on Friday, October 25 between 2:45 PM and 6:45 PM. No extra preparation is necessary for those called back, other than dressing appropriately (i.e. comfortably) for a choreography rehearsal. At the call-back auditions, candidates will be given new sheet music with specific parts which will be taught and sung in a group setting. The call-back audition will also require candidates to learn a section of choreography, and to participate in some dramatic reading and/or creative improvisation exercises.

**Above all, try to relax and have a good time. Songfest is about FUN more than anything else. The Songfest audience will only enjoy your performance when it's obvious that YOU are enjoying your performance!**

**If you have any questions, you can visit [pepperdinsongfest.com](http://pepperdinsongfest.com), or contact Student Activities at (310) 506-6729 or by email at [songfest@pepperdine.edu](mailto:songfest@pepperdine.edu).**

# **Songfest 2020**

## **Sample Group Intro Subjects**

*The following is a list of fictitious Songfest groups. Please select one as the subject of your group introduction. You are welcome to imagine what further content these group shows might contain. Remember, though, that your introduction should definitely include both the group name and the group's show title. Present your introduction to the audience as if immediately after your last words, the theatre curtain rises to reveal the start of the group's show.*

**ALPHA BETA CHARLIE AND FRIENDS**  
"The Secret of Grandma's Pajamas"

**THE CHIA PET FAN CLUB AND FRIENDS**  
"The Martian Mix-Up"

**THE SHARKS AND THE JETS**  
"Murder in the Yoga Ball Factory"

**FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA**  
"The Great Race"

**PHI BETA KAPPA AND SUMMA CUM LAUDE**  
"Daredevil Debbie and the Desert Dust-Up"

**DAPPER DANS, FANCY NANCIES, AND FRIENDS**  
"Pharaoh Phil and the Flamingo of Death"

**SMILE SOCIETY AND THE DENTAL DEVOTEES**  
"You Can't Handle the Tooth!"

**PEANUT BUTTER FANATICS AND FRIENDS**  
"The Legend of the Lost Toupée"

**STUDENTS FOR SLEEPING**  
"Trapped in a Time Warp"

# **Songfest 2020**

## **Host Audition FAQs**

*Questions about auditions?*

The Songfest website has an extensive list of answers to questions frequently asked by those interested in becoming a Songfest host. We encourage all candidates to view these FAQs at:

**[pepperdinesongfest.com/faq-hosts](http://pepperdinesongfest.com/faq-hosts)**

If you have further questions, please contact:

**Student Activities  
HAWC 117  
(310) 506-6729**

or email:

**[songfest@pepperdine.edu](mailto:songfest@pepperdine.edu)**

# Songfest 2020

## Host Scheduling Overview

*This is just to give a general idea of a host's meeting and rehearsal schedule. Subject to change.*

### **Fall Semester:**

see Host Commitment Agreement for current scheduling plans

- Host Orientation (2+ hours) – Fri 11/1
- Workshop #1 (3+ hours) – Fri 11/15
- Workshop #2 (3+ hours) – Fri 12/13 (this is the first day of winter break!!!!)

Other obligations during the Fall semester are non-intensive, and can fit around most other parts of student life.

Also- we try to arrange fall semester duties as best as possible around host classes and obligations. However, with several hosts and an additional 5-8 staff, there often aren't any workable options besides what we've already pre-scheduled.

### **Spring Semester:**

This is when things really pick up, getting more intensive the further we go.

- Weekly music rehearsal.
  - Tuesdays 4-6 or 5-7, unless EVERYONE (staff, hosts, facilities, etc.) can make a different time/place work. Has not changed in several years.
- Weekly dance rehearsals (starting in Feb)
  - Usually Tuesday evenings 6:45-9:00ish (after music rehearsals).
- Host Workshops (skits, planning, etc.)
  - tentatively Tue 2/4 (eve), Wed 2/19 9eve), and Mon 3/2 (all day)
- Kick-Off Event prep
  - a planning meeting after music rehearsal on Tue 2/18 (evening)
- Kick-Off Event
  - Thu 2/20, 9:15-10:45ish (PM)
- Additional choreo rehearsals
  - tentatively Fri 2/21, Sat 2/22, Sun 2/23, Fri 2/28, Sat 2/29, Sun 3/1. (usually 2-3 hours each)

### **Spring Break:**

- Sun 3/1, 4+ hours of afternoon music rehearsal, 2+ hours of evening choreo
- Mon 3/2, intensive workshop and dance (all day)
- Tue 3/3, work day (tech meeting, set/prop construction, costume gathering, etc.)
- Wed 3/4-Sat 3/7: no host meetings (note that hosts *do* usually work together on many things this week, but we don't meet for rehearsal or staff meetings on these days)
- Sun 3/8, 4+ hours of afternoon music rehearsal, 2+ hours of evening choreo

### **Final Prep Week**

(insane- your life is Songfest every hour you aren't in class... but it's worth it!):

- Mon-Fri 3/9-3/13
  - every afternoon/evening, all evening, starting as early as everyone is out of class
- Wed 3/11 and Thu 3/12: group rehearsal visits (10 PM to Midnight)
- Sat/Sun 3/14-3/15: ALL DAY/NIGHT
  - (orch rehearsal, tech rehearsal, dance rehearsals, host dress rehearsal)
- Mon 3/11 (tech rehearsal or host dress rehearsal)
- Tue 3/12 Dress Rehearsal

# Songfest 2020

## Host Audition Form



**Name (first and last):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year:** FR SO JR SR    **Major(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Voice Type(s):** *(circle all that apply, but please clearly indicate your preferred/best range)*

Bass                  Baritone                  Tenor                  Alto                  Mezzo                  Soprano

**Audition Song 1 Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Audition Song 2 Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Group Introduction Choice:** \_\_\_\_\_

List all other productions and/or performance groups you are involved with this year:  
*(Concert Choir, fall musical, Won By One, opera, Dance in Flight, PIT, etc.)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Fall 2019 Weekly Class/Conflict Schedule

*Please list/attach additional conflicts or comments*

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
8:00							
9:00							
10:00							
11:00							
12:00							
1:00							
2:00							
3:00							
4:00							
5:00							
6:00							
7:00							
8:00							
9:00							
10:00							

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hometown** *(city, state):* \_\_\_\_\_

# Songfest 2020

## Host Commitment Agreement

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1. Songfest performances will be from Wednesday, March 18 to Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 PM, with an additional 2 PM performance on Saturday, March 21. The orchestra, technical, and dress rehearsals will be held all day on Saturday March 14 and Sunday March 15, and after 4:30 PM on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday March 17.
2. Hosts are required to be in rehearsal every day (including all evenings after 6 PM) during the final rehearsal week of Monday March 9 – Friday March 13. This final week is very time-intensive, and is critical to presenting an acceptably “polished” performance. Even before this week, the frequency and scope of rehearsals and preparation work will begin to increase as the show draws nearer.
3. Host preparation will begin with a Host Orientation on Friday, November 1, at 4:00 PM. Host Workshops are scheduled for Friday, November 15 from 4:00-8:00 PM and Friday, December 13 from 9:30 AM -1:30 PM. These will only be changed if all staff and hosts can accommodate the change.
4. Regular music rehearsals are currently scheduled for Tuesday afternoons from 4-6 PM or 5-7 PM, and will begin on Tuesday, January 14. Dance rehearsals are scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 7-9 PM, beginning February 4. These will only be changed if all hosts and staff members can accommodate the change. Several other rehearsals will also be scheduled- particularly on weekends in February and March (see the Scheduling Overview for tentative dates).
5. During Spring Break, hosts must restrict travel plans to the period of Wednesday, March 4 through Saturday, March 7. Host rehearsals will be held on Saturday February 29, Sunday March 1, Monday March 2, and Sunday, March 8. Hosts will have a work day on Tuesday, March 3.
6. In addition to the performances, Songfest hosts will also be hosting the Songfest Kick-Off event on Thursday, February 20 from 9:15-10:45 PM. Hosts are also required to accompany the Staff and visit every group in a rehearsal during the period of Wed March 11 – Fri March 13.
7. Hosts will adhere to the preparation deadlines and expectations given to them by the Staff. These include (but are not limited to) the additional rehearsals and deadlines specified in the Host Calendar (on Songfest website; issued to hosts at the Host Orientation).
8. Hosts will spend significant individual work and rehearsal time outside that of scheduled rehearsals to ensure that they are fully ready to present their rehearsal and performance material in a prepared, polished, and professional way.
9. Hosts will work under the direction of the Directors, Musical Director, Host Choreographer, Host Consultant, and Associate Producer. This includes rehearsing and performing selected music, choreography, and dialogue. Hosts will audition for the Songfest Staff and other Songfest collaborators.
10. Beginning immediately, the hosts will be expected to keep in touch **\*\*daily\*\*** concerning the overall development of Songfest. **Same-day e-mail response is a must.**

I will be enrolled as a Seaver College student in the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters, and I agree to attend and fulfill all of the commitments listed above if I am selected as a Songfest host.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_