

# PNHS A Cappella Auditions

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What a cappella ensembles are offered at North?**

Plymouth North currently offers four different after school contemporary a cappella ensembles. **Northern Lights** is a mixed (male and female) group, **Spectrum** and **Girl Treble** are female-presenting, and **Menergy** is male-presenting. The ensembles perform songs from a variety of genres using only their voices to mimic instrument sounds and create new sounds.

### **What is the time commitment?**

**Northern Lights** - Rehearsals Monday and Wednesday nights from 5:30 - 7:30 at PNHS

**Spectrum** - Rehearsals Monday and Wednesday nights from 4:00-6:00 at PNHS

**Girl Treble** - Rehearsals Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:15-3:45 at PNHS

**Menergy** - Rehearsals Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons from 2:15-3:45 at PNHS

Aside from regular rehearsals, the groups perform at events in school (assemblies, pep rally, etc.), winter and spring a cappella concerts, opportunities inside and outside of the community, as well as competitions in the area. Members are required to be in attendance at each rehearsal and performance. While it is a significant time commitment, by all accounts, it is a rewarding experience, and you get as much out of it as you are willing to put in.

Ensembles frequently have commitments which take place on Friday nights or Saturdays. Being a member of any a cappella group will force you to get your time management skills in order and keep a detailed planner.

### **I play/want to play a sport—can I still sing in an a cappella ensemble?**

While it would be great if this were a simple answer, it depends entirely on the sport. Different sports practice at different times, and different sports have different game schedules. Contact your coach and see how the two conflict. If you play a sport that has games during rehearsal times for a third of the year, then it would make it very difficult to balance the two. If your coach is okay with splitting the conflict time, then we can make it work. Talk to your coach and see what they say.

### **Is it possible to sing in multiple a cappella ensembles?**

This is something we look at on a case by case and year by year basis, depending on numbers. There is a place on the audition form to express your interest in this.

### **What should I prepare before the audition?**

-- A verse and chorus of a song that shows what you can do—the advice Mr. Grossman gives anyone auditioning for anything is very simple: “Sing something that you are comfortable with that shows what you are capable of right now.”

-- A written personal statement, as described on the audition sheet, to be turned into Mr. Grossman at the audition.

-- A short vocal percussion groove. This doesn't have to be complex—most importantly, it needs to be in a steady tempo and groove. Thanks to YouTube, there are many videos with beatboxing tutorials. Check them out! *Note: We could really use some more vocal percussionists! This can be a really helpful skill for your audition and group!*

-- If you have not had Mr. Grossman as a teacher, make sure you have the name of a music teacher who can speak to your history as an ensemble member. If you would like to use Mrs. Fuller for this, note it on your sheet, and Mr. Grossman will talk to her.

### **What is the audition process like?**

There are two possible days that you can audition—Tuesday May 28th or Wednesday, May 29th. Mr. Grossman, as well as two other people who are experienced in contemporary a cappella, will adjudicate your audition. Students should sign up for a time slot to audition at [www.pnhs-sings.com](http://www.pnhs-sings.com). For PCIS students, there will be a bus that students can take after school on the 28th. Students may audition on the 29th instead, but must provide their own transportation.

Plan to arrive 5-10 minutes before your audition. We will call you in when it's your turn. See the audition guidelines for detailed information on the solo audition.

After auditions on May 29th, a list of students called back for Northern Lights and Spectrum will be posted on [www.pnhs-sings.com](http://www.pnhs-sings.com). Students called back will receive appropriate materials to prepare, and callbacks will be at 3:15pm on May 31st at PNHS. There will be a bus to transport any PCIS students that are called back.

Remember!! Much of this audition process is structured to see how willing one is to take risks. Even if you aren't the world's best beatboxer, we want to hear what you're willing to try. Getting up in front of a lot of people and singing in a small group might be a bit nerve-racking—this is the time to face your fear! Don't be afraid to put yourself out there—we want to see you be brave!

Late on May 31st, rosters will be posted for each ensemble on [www.pnhs-sings.com](http://www.pnhs-sings.com).

### **I can't make it to either day's audition, what can I do?**

Unfortunately, because of the guest adjudicators traveling to assist, these are the only two days available to audition. Hopefully you can find a way to make one of these days work!

**What happens after the rosters are posted?**

Mr. Grossman and Ms. Fuller will have copies of contracts for you and a parent to sign and return by Wednesday, June 5th. This contract is how you will accept your spot in the ensemble. If the contract is not returned, you will be giving up your spot.

**Group Meetings:**

Northern Lights: Wednesday, June 5th, 5:30-7:00

Spectrum: Wednesday, June 5th, 4:00-5:30

Girl Treble: Thursday, June 6th, 3:00-3:45

Menergy: Thursday, June 6th, 3:00-3:45

**Can I get feedback on my audition?**

Yes! Feel free to see Mr. Grossman and ask for some feedback on things that you can focus on in your singing to help prepare you for further auditions! We have great opportunities to participate in vocal ensembles at PNHS, which are great ways to help improve ensemble singing skills! There is so much offered in music at North—get involved!

**I have more questions!**

Great! E-mail Mr. Grossman at [dngrossman@plymouth.k12.ma.us](mailto:dngrossman@plymouth.k12.ma.us)