

THE CENTURYMEN

A Few Facts for Those Considering Membership

Who? THE CENTURYMEN is an auditioned group of full-time Ministers of Music whose goal is to use the medium of music to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the United States and the world. At this point, employment or former employment by a Baptist church in a full-time role as Minister of Music is the basic criteria for membership. Also accepted are men who work full-time in key roles of the Southern Baptist music departments and Baptist colleges of each state. Those who are in a part-time role may audition and have their application and acceptance held in the event that the group alters its membership requirements. These policies are currently under review.

How? Auditions are conducted at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, and at Glorieta, New Mexico, during Church Music Weeks, at the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, and at specified regional auditions. The group has Regional Audition Directors who also arrange auditions in their region according to needs and applicant responses. **In order to be scheduled for an audition, please complete the Application Form on the web and return it to the Audition Chairman** (*Jimmie Nettles 145 Oakland Parkway, Leesburg Ga 31763 or email jnettl@firstbaptistalbany.org*). After your application has been received, you will be notified of audition options. The audition consists of sight-reading, tonal memory tests, a range test, singing Malotte's *The Lord's Prayer* and a selected solo of your choice. A pianist will be provided for the audition and singing from memory is encouraged. The audition is conducted by CENTURYMEN assigned to that task. No taped accompaniments will be allowed. The audition panel will be supportive and will work at helping you be at ease in the audition itself. The audition should take no more than 30 minutes. Occasionally a recall audition may

be required. The audition panel formed for your audition makes a recommendation as to your acceptance. It is then sent to the Audition Chairman and Dr. Red. Final selection for membership is based upon space availability within sections, vocal quality, the ability to blend, and the results of the audition. The group is divided into TTTTBBBB sections, with higher and lower parts within each section. If accepted, you will be notified of the part assignment within the group.

Particulars The group generally gathers once, sometimes twice per year for a project. Members must agree to miss no more than 2 consecutive projects. A new member is a probationary member until they have completed and participated in a project. Each state-side project generally lasts 6 – 8 days. The group participates in an overseas project (12 – 14 days) every 5 years. The last overseas project occurred July, 2008 in the British Isles. The average project cost within the United States is \$800 – \$1500 depending on travel costs. An overseas project will cost in the range of approximately \$3,400. The group suggests budgeting \$1,000 a year for CENTURYMEN costs, with any remainder escrowed for the next overseas project. Annual dues are currently \$75.

All music is sung from memory and standard tuxes with wing tipped collar shirts are used as the main uniform. Informal uniforms are also used as situations dictate. Members are responsible for all costs of projects and uniforms

Other Items to Consider

- **CenturyMen are required to memorize their music.** The learning process is helped by rehearsal CD's that are distributed prior to a project or by reviewing project pieces on recordings. Rehearsals often occur just prior to a project tour or recording responsibility, making it impossible to "chase notes" at a rehearsal. Contact with other CenturyMen and communication through the group's newsletter and email group help with knowing what music to prepare.

- **CenturyMen are expected to participate in all projects.** The constitution and bylaws for the organization stipulate that members must not miss more than two consecutive projects. Certainly situations occur that may prohibit a member's participation in an event, but persistent absenteeism results in a member being removed from "active" status.
- **CenturyMen are brothers in Christ.** A spirit of servant hood permeates the group from its director, accompanists, officers, and extending to every member. Members recognize their involvement as a privilege and their talents as blessings from God. This attitude greatly enhances the fellowship and effectiveness of the ministry.

