

THRESHOLD SINGERS OF ANN ARBOR (TSAA)

OVERVIEW: JOINING AND BECOMING A BEDSIDE SINGER

If you have longed to use your voice to provide compassion and comfort, can sing softly, can memorize and hold a part on your own in a small group (3-4 singers) singing three-part harmony and rounds, can balance confidence with kindness and humility, and are willing to look at your own and others' mortality, this singing may be for you.

TSAA Bedside Singers go to private homes and care facilities in groups of 3-4 singers to sing peaceful, soothing songs for people who are undergoing a transition - between life and death, injury and healing, or other life events. We sing songs primarily from the Threshold Choir repertoire.

There are 4 stages of membership in TSAA: Prospective Member, New Member, Bedside Singer Apprentice, and Bedside Singer.

After attending an informational/singing session, you may be invited to become a Prospective Member, and to start learning songs from the Threshold repertoire. You'll meet 2-4 times monthly with a skilled singing leader in a small group of 3-4 singers for 3-6 months to work on Threshold singing skills, blending, and holding a part. A Buddy/Preparation Mentor will be available to assist you.

If you successfully complete the Prospective Member process, you will be invited to become a TSAA New Member, and asked to join [Threshold Choir International](#) (TCI). Singers are asked to contribute financially to both TSAA and TCI according to their ability. You will begin attending full rehearsals (currently three Tuesdays per month, 12:30 - 2:00 pm, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI) and continue learning and memorizing the melodies to our "first 25" songs, the first step on the path to becoming a Bedside Singer. (Over time, TSAA singers memorize 1-3 parts to 50+ songs.) Small group rehearsals will continue to be available to assist in your progress.

We will provide you with Threshold orientation materials about how to be calm and effective when singing to someone who is dying, ill, or in distress. We will give you clear feedback on your progress. We hope and expect that within six months of work, in rehearsals and on your own, you will be ready to become a Bedside Singer Apprentice. You will then begin singing at bedsides, while continuing to learn new songs and harmony parts, leading you to becoming a Bedside Singer.

If you are interested in joining TSAA, you are invited to contact us through our website: <http://thresholdofannarbor.org/contact.html>. TSAA will add your name to our list, and you will be invited to the next informational session, held one or more times a year. Please see our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more details.

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