

Orland Park to Hold Auditions for “Orland Glee Club” *Recreation Department Forming Song and Dance Ensemble*

ORLAND PARK, IL – Glee is coming to Orland Park. The village’s Recreation Department has announced auditions for the “Orland Glee Club,” a song and dance ensemble open to those ages fourteen to twenty-two.

“Glee,” the television show, is a musical-comedy-drama that airs on Fox. The series follows an optimistic teacher who attempts to save his high school’s glee club while helping a group of aspiring underdogs realize their true potential. Each weekly episode includes musical performances.

“This is a first for the village’s cultural arts programs,” said Recreation Operations Manager Irene Buikema. “We’re looking forward to having this group perform at different venues throughout the area,” she added.

Twenty-four female and male members will be chosen for the ensemble, which will be directed by Frann Carnivele-Sidlow, resident producer/director of the village’s theatre program and Jennifer Miller, executive producer for Opening Night Arts Group. Miller directs the choirs at Orland and Century Junior High Schools. The ensemble will perform pop, rock, jazz and Broadway hits.

“The television show ‘Glee’ is one of the most popular series on prime time television right now,” Carnivele-Sidlow said, adding, “Those of us in musical theater are absolutely thrilled with the show’s premise and in particular with the weekly musical performances.”

“Many of the middle schools have swing choirs but many high schools have dropped them from their music programs,” Miller said, adding, “This is why we’re offering this ensemble for high school age and a little older.”

Auditions will be held Wednesday, August 25 from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the village’s Cultural Arts Center, 14760 Park Lane. Those auditioning should bring a prepared song to sing a cappella and wear comfortable clothing and shoes to learn and perform a dance.

If named to the ensemble, participants must pay a registration fee, \$140 for residents and \$210 for non-residents. An additional fee will be required for costumes chosen by the group.

“The best way to describe the ‘Orland Glee Club’ for those not familiar with the television show is to remember the swing choir from your high school,” Carnivele-Sidlow said, smiling. She added, “This ensemble is smaller than the full choir, usually two dozen people or so, and they perform choreographed songs, absolutely delighting their audiences.”

“Frann and I were both in swing choir when we were students at Carl Sandburg,” Miller said, adding, “We both loved it and we’re looking forward to developing the same type of ensemble with the Orland Glee Club.”

The ensemble will rehearse on Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center. For more information, call the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department at 708/403-7275.

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