

Youth in Arts®

'Til Dawn Information

Thank you for your interest in Youth in Arts 'Til Dawn. This information page provides helpful information about the group, our expectations for members and our audition process. If you would like to schedule an audition, or be put on our mailing list for our next audition, please complete our online audition form. You will find a link at youthinarts.org/til_dawn.

General Information about 'Til Dawn

'Til Dawn is Youth in Arts' youth *a cappella* ensemble for students in grades 9-12. 'Til Dawn celebrates the value of the arts, encourages positive messages about meaningful social issues, and inspires children of all ages. The group performs a mix of rock, pop, blues, jazz and soul standards and contemporary hits.

'Til Dawn rehearses twice a week at Youth in Arts in downtown San Rafael and maintains a year-round schedule of 30+ performances at schools, community events and charitable benefits. We typically go on three weekend-long retreats per year to strengthen interpersonal relationships in the group. Auditions are held in May for students entering 9th-12th grade. We are looking for people who want to learn about music, performing, listening and being a part of an ensemble.

'Til Dawn is an intensive performance group. We fully understand that your academic responsibilities take priority over your extracurricular activities. That said, we expect 'Til Dawn to be your highest extracurricular priority. As a member of 'Til Dawn you will be expected to (at minimum):

- Attend rehearsals twice a week;
- Attend the performances to which you commit;
- Attend retreats;
- Provide reasonable advanced notice of your inability to attend a rehearsal or a performance (6 hours notice for rehearsals & 24 hours notice for performances);
- Bring a day planner or calendar to rehearsal so we can schedule performances, retreats and other activities during the scheduling portion of rehearsal;
- Bring your music to rehearsal;
- Treat group members with the same kindness and respect with which you will be treated.

Monthly tuition for membership in 'Til Dawn is \$200. In addition there are three weekend retreats over the course of each year. Each retreat lodging and food costs

approximately \$140 per person. Scholarships are available and no student will be turned away solely because of inability to pay.

Audition FAQ

When are auditions?

Auditions are typically held in May. You can fill out an online audition form at **youthinarts.org/til_dawn** any time, but if it's not close to May, we'll put you on our email list to receive our next audition announcement. Your contact information will be added to youth in arts teen list so that we can notify you about upcoming events that you might be interested in.

I'm coming to audition! What should I prepare?

Auditionees should prepare one minute of one song of any genre. It's probably better if the genre is pop, jazz, rock, R&B, gospel, folk or blues, though, since that's the stuff that we typically sing.

How long will the audition process take?

This one is hard to answer. It's partially dependent on turnout, but we encourage you to be ready to stay until 10:30pm. Don't worry, though, rehearsals are never this late.

What is the audition process like?

- **Step One:** Sing a song of your choice *a cappella*.
- **Step Two:** Pitch matching. We play a series of pitches on the keyboard and you sing them back on whatever vowel you want.
- **Step Three:** Sing a background part in a quintet/sextet with 'Til Dawn. We teach you a background part to one of our songs and one by one each auditionee comes in and sings it with a quintet/sextet.

Should I bring a resumé or photo to the audition?

We don't need a resume or a headshot. We take a digital photo to remember you by.

What if I still have questions?

Feel free to contact 'Til Dawn Director Austin Willacy at akw@well.com or to contact Youth in Arts at yia@youthinarts.org or 415-457-4878.