



FAQs for Prospective Musical Groups during 2022 Garden d'Lights

Garden d'Lights is one of the most popular holiday events in the region. In 2021, more than 70,000 people enjoyed this event. However, we have not been able to offer live music during Garden d'Lights since 2019 due to the pandemic. We are excited that music will return to Garden d'Lights in 2022, provided by local musical groups! If you are a musical group and you are interested in performing, below are some answers to common questions.

What kinds of musicians are you looking for?

We are looking for instrumental and vocal musicians. Groups can be large (20-25 people) or small (10 or fewer people).

What is the largest group you can accommodate?

The largest group we can comfortably accommodate is 25 musicians. There are some exceptions to this, so contact us if your group is larger.

Will you pay us for our performance?

Sorry, we cannot pay you for your performance. However, if you wish, your performance can be considered an in-kind donation to the non-profit Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, and/or performers can earn community service hours for the time spent performing. If you wish to take an in-kind donation for your performance, or if performers want community service hours, please let us know when you schedule your performance.

Can we solicit donations from the public or sell items while we are performing?

Sorry, no. Soliciting donations from the public or selling items is not permitted. However, you are permitted to set up a small table (you provide) with printed materials about your musical group and display a poster or table display about your group.

Where in the Garden will we perform?

Larger groups (11 or more) will perform in the Gathering Place, which is immediately south of the main entry breezeway. Smaller groups (10 or fewer) will perform either in the Gathering Place, or in the Aaron Education Center (northwest of the main entrance). The Gathering Place is covered, but it is outdoors. The Education Center is completely indoors. See below for more information about these spaces.

Will there be a facility for us to change clothes and store our personal belongings?

No, we do not have a facility for your group to change clothes or to store your personal belongings. We recommend that you arrive at the Garden in the attire you will perform in, and that you travel light and bring only the essentials with you. We strongly recommend that you do not leave valuables in your car. We do not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

Is there a place for our performers to practice/warm up before our performance?

We may be able to offer your group a place to warm up. This space is more appropriate for vocal groups or small (5 or fewer people) instrumental groups, however. Please talk to us about this when you make your reservation.

Which dates will groups perform?

We aim to offer entertainment many nights during Garden d'Lights, which runs from November 26 to December 31, 2022. The event is closed on Christmas Day.

What hours will we perform, and how long should our performance last?

Performances start at 5pm, 5:30pm, 6pm, or 6:30pm. There is only one group per night, so you can choose the start time you prefer. Performances can last between 30 and 60 minutes. Again, this is your choice, but please let us know how long you expect your performance to last.

Will we get to choose our date?

Maybe. Dates will be filled on a first come, first served basis. We recommend scheduling as early as possible if there is a specific date you have in mind.

What kind of music should we plan on performing?

Music should be upbeat, holiday-themed, and engaging. Because our guests are from diverse cultures and backgrounds, we ask that you not perform overtly religious music.

Do you have equipment we can use?

That depends on where you perform.

In the Aaron Education Center:

We have one portable speaker and a microphone and stand available for your use. Please let us know if you wish to use this equipment. We do not have music stands, an amplifier, a piano or keyboard, or any other musical instruments. If you require any of this equipment, you must provide it. Power is available in the Aaron Education Center. Chairs are available if needed.

In the Gathering Place:

We do not have equipment of any kind available in the Gathering Place. Instruments and other equipment requiring electricity must be kept to a minimum in this space. All electrical equipment combined cannot exceed 3.0 amps. Alternatively, you may bring battery-operated equipment for use in this space. If you require equipment that would exceed 3.0 amps, please speak with us about the feasibility of your group performing in the Aaron Education Center.

Chairs can be made available in the Gathering Place for small groups (5 or fewer). Please let us know if you need chairs when you reserve your date.

Please keep in mind that there are space constraints in both locations, so the equipment you bring should be kept to a minimum. If you have questions about this, please ask.

Will we get in to Garden d'Lights for free?

Yes, every performer in your group and those directly involved with your group will get into Garden d'Lights for free on the night of your performance. We will send you passes for everyone in your group, so please be sure to provide us with an email or mailing address so we can send your passes to you. **Please note that these passes are only for performers and those directly involved with organizing your performance.** If family and friends wish to watch your performance, they can purchase tickets at www.gardendlights.org. Tickets are \$8 per person and children 10 and under are free. Tickets are date and time specific, so make sure family and friends know the date and time of your performance.

Will we be able to park for free?

No, we are not able to offer free parking. Parking in our main lot is on a first-come, first-served basis and is \$5 per car, cash only. Our lot gets very busy, so we strongly recommend carpooling or using a ride share service when possible. If you want to park for free, you can park at Wilburton Hill Park. You are permitted to drop off instruments, equipment, and musicians in our load zone and then proceed to the parking lot.

Will you let the community know about our performance?

Yes. Once the performance calendar is finalized in mid-November, we will publish it at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, on the Garden d'Lights website, on social media, and elsewhere. If you have promotional materials about your group, please email them to us so we can promote your performance. Please also "like" our Facebook page (facebook.com/Gardendlights), and follow us on Instagram ([bellevuebotanical](https://instagram.com/bellevuebotanical)). If your group is active on Facebook or Instagram, please provide us with your social media account information and we will tag you in our posts. In addition, with your permission, video may be taken of your performance and posted to our Garden d'Lights Facebook page. If you do not want your performance posted to social media, please let us know.

Whom do we contact with questions or to schedule our performance?

Please contact Darcy McInnis, Communications Manager, at dmcinnis@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4216. Please also send any promotional materials and social media information to Darcy.

Thank you for being a part of this very special community event!