

eTc Audition Workshop Music Guidelines

We have outlined some guidelines to help you prepare for the music portion of your audition. An audition is a chance to challenge yourself to practice and be well prepared, and then to be confident and do your best the day of. It is your job to show us your hard work and talent this is all you have control over in an audition. Once you walk out that door, it is out of your control, and then it is your job to trust that we, the staff, will do our job and cast the show to the best of our abilities. If you have any questions on how to best prepare for your audition regarding music, feel free to email us at bayareaetc@bayareaetc.org.

*** Three goals for your audition: Be prepared ▪ Be confident ▪ Do your best

BE PREPARED

Step 1: Choose an appropriate audition song

- The song must be age appropriate not just content-wise, i.e. an 8 year old girl should not sing "If I Were a Rich Man" from Fiddler on the Roof, or an adult male should not sing "Tomorrow" from Annie
- The song must be in your vocal range if you are straining to sing anything too high or too low pick a different song NOW. Just because Lea Michele sang it on Glee does not mean that it is an appropriate song for you to sing she is a trained vocalist with exceptional technique
- The song should be in the style of the show you are auditioning for, but DO NOT sing any songs from the actual show
- Also as a general rule, DO NOT sing any selections from Wicked, Frozen, any Andrew Lloyd Weber or any pop songs.
- It is highly recommended that you sing a song from a musical, since it is a musical you are auditioning for

Step 2: Prepare your sheet music

- Some insight: an accompanist at an audition may or may not have seen or ever played the song you are singing at your audition. It is in your best interest to prepare your sheet music well in order to help them do their best in order to help you do perform your best!
- You must bring sheet music to your audition singing a cappella or with a CD/iPod is NOT allowed. For the actual show you are singing to a live band, so for your audition you need to show us how well you sing with a live accompanist!
- Sheet music must be double-sided, hole-punched and in a binder do not tape your music together, put it in a binder!
- The binder must be able to stay open on its own no floppy binders! That defeats the point of putting your music in a binder! An accompanist only has two hands, and does not have a third hand to hold the binder open while they try to play music that they may or may not have seen before
- If there are any cuts mark it CLEARLY with a pencil in your music
- Also double check that the sheet music is for piano, and not just the vocal line or chords. A good rule of thumb (hah!) is to ask a pianist for a second option!

Step 3: Practice, practice, practice! Practice might not make perfect or get you to Carnegie Hall, but it will make better

- Bring your song to your vocal teacher/coach!
- If you don't have one scheduled a session or two with one!
- Ask a parent or sibling or friend or neighbor or anyone who plays piano to play the music for you so you're not hearing it for the first time at the audition. HINT: It is SO IMPRESSIVE when someone comes into an audition and actually knows when to start singing after the piano intro.
- Make sure you really have those lyrics memorized

BE CONFIDENT

Step 1: Walk confidently into the room it's amazing what we remember from first impressions

- Walk confidently to the table and give your audition packet to the Staff and then walk confidently over to the piano and give your sheet music IN A BINDER to me.
- NOTE: Don't be afraid to talk to me about how fast or slow you want your song to go, or show me any cuts that ARE CLEARLY MARKED just to double check. Again, help me help you!

Step 2: Speak and sing confidently

- Introduce yourself confidently name, and what song you are singing
- Sing confidently if you chosen an appropriate audition song, prepared your sheet music correctly and practiced, practiced, practiced, hopefully you will feel super well prepared so be confident and sing us your song.

Step 3: Exit confidently

- Whether you feel like you did well or not at your audition, your exit is still part of your audition, so exit confidently, as a last impression is just as important as a first impression. You can celebrate or be sad after you walk out the door

DO YOUR BEST

Step 1: Trust that you are well prepared

- If you are then don't over-think your audition and just focus on having fun and doing your best!
- Even if you are not well prepared there is nothing you can do at this point so you might as well have fun and do your best

Step 2: Accept that you are a human being and that you make mistakes

- Everybody makes mistakes. Don't let that stop you from doing your best. You can do your best and still make mistakes. A great audition, like a great show, can be full of mistakes. It is how you recover from a mistake that speaks volumes (hah...). For example, if you are able to recover and move forward from a mistake in your audition, it'll show us that you will be able to move forward and go on with the show if something happens onstage during a performance

Step 3: Learn from your audition

- If you prepared well and performed well, congratulations! No matter what part you get, you should feel good about your audition.
- If you prepared well and didn't perform as well as you wanted, don't give up! Be proud that you prepared well, and keep auditioning! Performing well at an audition is a skill that gets better with practice
- If you didn't prepare well and performed well, good job for now, but know that talent will only get you so far. Talent and hard work will get you much further
- If you didn't prepare well and didn't perform well, go back to the beginning of this guideline and take it one step at a time.