

## How To Prepare for a Musical Audition

### 1. Research

Read the character breakdown. Familiarize yourself with the musical, listen to cast recordings, watch YouTube videos of productions or scenes. Identify the genre of music: is this a standard musical theatre sound, or does it have elements of Jazz, Rock, Pop, Latin, etc.? Is this musical dark and serious, or lighthearted and comedic?

### 2. Identify roles you are interested in and would fit you and your type

Which character(s) sing in your vocal range? Are there any personality or physical attributes that you share with a character? Does this character require a specific type of dance ability that you have in your wheelhouse? Does this character require an acting type (dramatic, comedic, slapstick, dry sarcasm, etc.) that you excel at?

### 3. Find appropriate audition material

Once you have pinpointed the best character from the show to try for, it's time to select an audition piece that helps you show that off. Look for material similar to the musical you are auditioning for, both in genre and vocal range. To find this material, a good place to start is to look at other musicals from the era, or other musicals written by the same composer. Here's an example of this process:

I am auditioning for *Guys and Dolls*. I have a high soprano voice, and I'm a good serious actor. The role that best matches my type is Sarah Brown. She sings classic musical theatre type soprano songs, but there is one song she sings that shows her letting her hair down and getting a little feisty. After researching songs from the same genre and era as *Guys and Dolls*, I found "I'll Show Him" from the musical *Plain and Fancy*. It's got some notes that allow me to show my high soprano range. It's also up-tempo with feisty and fun lyrics, which will show the casting team high energy and personality.

**There really isn't a specific role I think fits me or I'm only interested in being in the ensemble. How do I select an audition piece for that?**

Excellent! In this case, choose audition material that fits the style of the show and shows off what you do best. Here's an example of that process:

I am a bubbly and funny person. I have a middle-range voice that is brassy and loud. *Guys and Dolls* has a classic musical theatre sound with a bit of jazz. I researched musicals from the same era, looking for something jazzy and fun. I found "I Can Cook Too" from the musical *On the Town*, that's very fast and fun, and in my vocal range. With this piece, the casting team will see my big personality and my belty voice. I feel confident and happy when I sing this song, and I know the casting will enjoy watching me having fun.

### 4. Practice, practice, practice!

Select a cutting of your song that is 16-32 bars, or about one minute in length. After you have your audition cutting picked out, memorize it. It's helpful to decide what acting and vocal choices you will make, and then stick to that. Repetitive practice will cement your performance in your body and voice so that you are comfortable and confident during your audition.

## Audition Process

When you get to the audition, please check in at the monitor's table. Give them/fill out the required forms, and then wait for your audition. We will have a practice room available for you warm up if you wish. There will be a designated space for parents and guardians to wait.

\*Masks are required for actors and guardians\*

### 1. Dance call

The group of actors in your time slot will take the stage together to learn a short dance combination and then perform it for the casting team. \*The dance combination will be provided in an online video to help you prepare\*

### 2. Individual singing audition

After the dance call, all the actors will exit the theater and wait to come in one by one for their individual audition. Here's how an individual audition goes:

1. Enter the room and give your sheet music to the accompanist at the piano. Clearly explain where you will begin and end, and let the accompanist know how fast/slow you'd like to sing your piece. The accompanist may ask you questions to help them play your piece in the way you need.
2. Take the stage, and Slate. For kids, it should go something like this:  
"Hi! I'm [name]. I'm [age] years old. I will be performing [name of song] from [name of musical]."
3. Perform your 16-32 bar cutting.
4. We may ask you questions about past theatre experience, ask you to sing something again in a different way, or do a range check to see how high or low you can comfortably sing.
5. We will thank you for your work, and then it's over! You may collect your sheet music, thank the accompanist, and exit.

### 3. Callbacks

It's possible that the casting team would request to see you again for callbacks. The callback material may consist of scenes or songs from the script, reading with another actor. This material will be provided to you prior to auditions. *If you are not called back, that doesn't necessarily mean you will not be cast, that just means you showed us everything we needed to see in your audition.*

### 4. Casting announcement

You will be notified via email whether or not you have been offered a role. The casting process may take a few days, and we appreciate your patience while the casting team makes these difficult decisions.

## Helpful Audition Tips

### **Arrive early.**

You perform your best when you are not rushed, frazzled, or out of breath. Give yourself the time you need to check in, collect yourself, and focus.

### **Carefully review schedule**

Please tell the producer **all** conflicts you may have. We cannot have actors informing us at the last minute that they are unavailable for a rehearsal, as this disrupts the process for the entire cast. We understand that young performers are very busy, and we are willing to come up with solutions to scheduling issues, so don't let that deter you from auditioning.

### **Required Forms**

Please fill out all the required forms by the deadline noted in your audition confirmation email. Bring these forms to the audition.

### **Please come warmed up.**

To avoid injury, prepare your voice and body before you audition. You may stretch and/or vocalize in the practice room prior to your audition.

### **What to wear:**

Comfortable clothing and footwear that you can dance/move around in and does not hinder your performance or distract from it. You may be asked to sit/roll on the floor or kick high, so keep that in mind if you decide to wear a dress or skirt. If you'd like to change shoes in between the dance call and your singing audition, you may, but we don't mind! What matters most is that you are comfortable and able to perform your best work.

### **What the casting team is looking for:**

In the dance call, have fun and go for it! Don't be afraid to ask questions or have us demonstrate something again.

Preparation: Your audition piece must be 16-32 bars. We will stop you if it's too long, for the sake of respecting the rest of the auditioner's appointments. Research, look for roles that fit your voice type and highlights your abilities. Practice your piece until you are very familiar and comfortable with it.

Act the song, tell the story! Show us how you connect to the lyrics you are singing. The words and the story are more important than singing perfectly.

Rough start? If you need to, politely ask your accompanist if you can begin again. No judgement! The way you continue shows the casting team how you perform under pressure and what would happen in a live theatre setting where anything can happen.

Most importantly, personality! Have fun and be confident and proud of your work.