



**Chamber/Concert Choir Virtual Learning**

# **High School Tips for a Successful Audition**

**April 30, 2020**



# High School Chamber/Concert Choir

## Lesson: April 30, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: students will be able to describe ways to have a successful audition**

# BELL WORK

- Think about the last time you auditioned for something...
  - Solo
  - College
  - Choir
  - Musical
  - Theatre
  - Outside Organizations
- What did you have to do for your audition?
- How did you prepare?
- Did you feel good about it?



# PREPARATION

- Being prepared for an audition is definitely the key to be successful
- Typically required for an audition:
  - 2 solo pieces
  - Sight Reading
  - Tonal Memory (sometimes)
  - Range Check
- You will want to be able to tell your accompanist the tempo of each song at your audition
  - Either count or snap it
  - Sing lightly the tempo
  - Practice this!



# WHAT MUSIC TO PICK

- Usually, they will want to hear two solo pieces
  - They should be contrasting in style (just like contest)
  - Different time periods, composer, tempo, or language
- The pieces should show your strengths vocally and as a performer
  - Show your vocal range
  - Show your agility
  - Show your musicianship
- You will most likely need to announce your name, pieces and the composers
  - Practice this!
  - Be specific with your word choice so it flows smoothly
  - Correct pronunciation
  - Speak slowly and with good diction so they can understand
    - Depending on the room, project your voice

# DRESS/WARM UP

- Dress for success! Make sure your outfit is appropriate and that YOU feel comfortable (can you walk confidently in your shoes,
- The day of the audition, make sure you give yourself plenty of time to get there
- Don't rush and plan ahead!
- Make sure you do a thorough vocal warm up
  - Middle, upper and lower voice
  - Sirens
- Go through your song a couple of times (but don't wear yourself out)
- Memory checks
- Give yourself a good pep-talk! You got this!

# FIRST IMPRESSION

- You want to walk into the room confidently!
  - Shoulders back
  - Smiling
  - Standing tall
- Meet the accompanist and tell her the order of the pieces and the tempo for the pieces.
  - Thank them and know that they might be sight reading your pieces.
- When you are ready to begin, go to the front of the piano and announce your pieces
  - Speak slowly and clearly
- After you announce, look down and take a second to breathe slowly.
  - When you bring your head up, your accompanist will know you are ready to begin
  - When you bring your head up, be in character and ready to perform
- Be musical and expressive!

# SIGHT READING AND TONAL MEMORY

- Check the key signature
  - Check the time signature
  - What solfege do you start on?
  - Scan the excerpt...
    - Any tricky rhythms?
    - Any big intervals?
    - Any accidentals (flats, sharps, or accidentals)
  - Take a deep breath!
  - Remember to keep going if you mess up
- Tonal memory is used to test your ear
  - The pianist will play a series of pitches and you sing them back
    - Sing on la or doo

**Plan**

**Prepare**

**Perform**

# YOU'RE DONE!

- They might want to ask you questions or talk to you so stick around until they thank you for auditioning.
- Thank them for the opportunity!
- Don't forget your music, water bottle, etc.



# EXTRA PRACTICE

Think about the following:

1. How will you prepare differently for your next audition?
2. How can you apply this to job interviews or public speaking?
3. How will these tips change the way you practice?