



Freshman Women's Choir

Auditioning 101

April 30th, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target:

The Student will learn basic strategies for a successful audition.



Warm Up

On a separate piece of paper, answer the following:

1. Have you ever auditioned for anything?
2. What went well and what needed improvement?
3. What do you think led to the outcome of the audition, whether you got the part or not?



Do Your Research!!!!

Last week's lesson over performance anxiety taught you that you need to prepare yourself. Preparing yourself helps cut down your anxiety levels and lets you do your best in your audition. Once you receive your audition materials, you should hit the ground running. You need to start practicing to get to the highest possible performance level. Though the performance is a huge part of the audition, there are other things you need to practice, like sight reading. Preparing yourself as early as possible gives you a huge advantage.



What Does Your Average Audition Consist Of?

1. 1-2 choral appropriate pieces- These could be things you have sung before or pieces given to you by your director for your audition.
2. Sight Reading- Most of the time, you will be asked to sight read in some capacity. A lot of times this looks like a single line or you reading your voice part from a 4 voice piece.
3. Tonal Memory- The accompanist will play a series of notes and will have you sing them back on whatever syllable you choose. This shows the auditioner how well you can learn a part and your intonation. They may also play a chord and ask you to pick out the high, middle, or low note.
4. Range Check- Most directors want to see how high and how low your voice can really go. This is where you will really have to be flexible because you may think you are a soprano, but they may need you to sing alto. If you have the alto range, they will want to put you there. This could mean the difference in you getting a spot or not.



Literature

Literature is possibly the most important part of your audition!!! You need to have pieces that showcase all of your vocal strengths as well as your musicianship. The pieces that you prepare need to be contrasting in style. Along with that, the accompanist might be seeing your music for the first time that day. Do NOT pick something that is too difficult for your accompanist. Even if the accompanist has seen it, there is a chance they will make some mistakes. You need to just keep singing through the piece. You need to be ready to sing with accompaniment and have all original copies of your music.



Mindset

Now imagine that you are going in super prepared, you have the perfect repertoire ready to go. What is the next step? You need to warm up your voice!! There will either be a practice room or you will need to go outside and go through your vocal warm ups. Make sure to cover the full range of your voice. A great warm up can leave you feeling mentally prepared for your audition. How you present yourself is key when it comes to auditions. You need to dress as if you are being interviewed, so appropriate clothing needs to be worn. Avoid skirts that are short, blouses that reveal more than appropriate, and clothing that may be transparent or reveals body markings and/or undergarments. You want to be heard and not seen, so what you wear needs to not overshadow what you do with your voice.



Actual Audition Time

The time has come. You walk in the room confident and ready to go! You greet the people in the room and make your way over to the accompanist. Now you need to walk them through your performance. You are allowed to sing a few bars for them for them to get a good sense of your tempo. You also should run them through everything. If there is a repeat that you are ignoring, they need to know. If you cut anything, they need to know. If you slow down or speed up, they need to know. Always thank them and let them know how much you appreciate them playing for you. Now you will introduce your piece(s) with the title and then the composer. Nod to the accompanist to start playing, and then you give the absolute best possible performance.



Post-Audition

As you finish your audition, you need to stay silent and allow the auditioners to prompt you to speak or to give you instructions. When they dismiss you, gather your things, thank everyone (especially the accompanist) and leave the room. After you leave the building and get in your car, you can respond to how your audition went. It is necessary to think back on your audition and remember what you did well and what you need to improve on for next time. If you feel that everything went poorly, think about your process of preparation through your audition. With every audition comes experience, and with every experience comes comfortability. The more you audition, the easier they will get.



Individual Practice

Here are a couple recordings of auditions, based on the information you have learned, what went well and where can they improve?

https://youtu.be/5QbWF05JD_Q

<https://youtu.be/pcwXR90Cp8A>



Additional Practice

Think about an audition you may have in the future, then answer the following questions:

1. How will you use this lesson to prepare yourself for auditions?
2. What activities will you use to help prepare?
3. Who in your life can you ask for help regarding auditions?