



The Successful Singer's
GUIDE TO AUDITIONS



Where to find Auditions

Not sure where to start? These websites, groups, and ideas are some of the best places you can go to find auditions in your area. If you're still in school, take advantage of all the opportunities there! Many audition listings are free, but some cost money. Sometimes, especially in classical music, you might have to pay an application fee to get an audition.

Musical Theatre

- 01 [Playbill](#)
- 02 [Backstage](#) (paid)
- 03 [Classical Singer](#) (paid)
- 04 Theatre Facebook Groups
- 05 Individual theatres' websites

Classical

- 01 [Classical Singer](#) (paid)
- 02 [YAP Tracker](#)
- 03 Classical Facebook Groups
- 04 Opera companies' websites
- 05 [Audition Oracle](#)

Other Opportunities

- 01 Local, state, & regional choirs
- 02 Church gigs
- 03 Vocal competitions & festivals
- 04 Sports games
- 05 Special events, parties, weddings



How to Prepare

Preparation is key for a successful audition! Don't fall behind due to being unprepared. Try these tips to master the material and feel confident on audition day.

Choosing an Audition Song

This topic is tricky, a little bit subjective, and hotly debated. Sing a piece that you are very comfortable with and that you sound great on. Bonus points if you've been singing it for a while, like several months or more.

In instances where you need to sing a particular song (you're auditioning for a specific role or solo, All State choir, or sports game), your work is done. You can skip this section!

If you're auditioning for a musical or opera and you can't sing from the show, try the following:

- Choose a song from another show by the same composer
- Find a song from a show written in the same time period with similar musical influences
- Choose a song with similar themes, like unrequited love, adventure, or hope
- Feeling fancy? Change the key, tempo, or dramatic intent of a song that is musically similar or with similar themes but that traditionally doesn't work for the role (wrong gender, wrong feel, etc.). This will take some inspiration and possibly the help of a musician.

Beware of "overdone" songs, although if you sing them beautifully you'll likely get a pass!

Above all else, sing something that shows you at your best. Avoid singing a "stretch" piece at an audition. Instead, sing something you could perform well on your worst day.



How to Prepare pt. 2

Sheet Music & Tracks

For musical theatre and classical auditions, you will need sheet music in the correct key. Your audition cut should be marked clearly and hole punched in a binder, ready for the pianist.

For pop and some musical theatre auditions, you will need a karaoke track in the correct key. Have it downloaded on your phone, ready to go.



Acting the Song

The most important thing is that you are emotionally connected to the music, text, and story, and that you are able to communicate that in your performance. Infuse your performance with expression and emotion by figuring out what your character wants and how they will get it. If you struggle with this, work with an acting coach or voice teacher who can help you.

Practice Tips

Start practicing as early as you can! The best learning happens over time, so give yourself plenty of time to integrate the material. An ideal timeframe would be at least a month or more. Try more frequent, shorter practice sessions rather than one long session.

Get the help of a professional if you're having trouble learning or mastering your material.



The big question: What to wear?

Gone are the days of jewel tones and character shoes! Your best bet is to look modern and presentable. Try these tips to look and feel your best on audition day.

Audition Outfit Tips

- 01 Be comfortable. An audition can stir up nerves, so avoid wearing clothes you don't feel good in.
- 02 Allude to the character you're auditioning for in your outfit. Don't wear a costume, but a subtle nod to the era, mood, or the character's personality can help you appear right for the role.
- 03 In general, it's safe to wear something you might wear to a nice family dinner. Classical auditions might require more formal attire.
- 04 Consider skipping clothing that is overly flashy or attention-grabbing. You want to be the focus, not your clothes. Avoid logos, wording, excessive images or distracting patterns.
- 05 Make sure your clothes fit properly and enhance your appearance. You may want to avoid white (if on camera) or black (not memorable).
- 06 If you'll be dancing, wear something you can move in. Serious dancers should wear full dance attire for dance calls. Movers should wear something athletic, but do not have to wear a leotard.
- 07 Make sure you are comfortable in your shoes. Super high heels can be a risky choice! You may need to bring different shoes for dancing.



Prepping your Audition Bag

Every singer needs an audition bag filled with all the essentials! Prep your bag the day before so that you are not scrambling to put it together the day of the audition.

Audition Bag Essentials

- 01 Audition binder with sheet music inside*
- 02 Headshot & resume stapled back-to-back
- 03 Bottle of water
- 04 Shoes to sing in
- 05 Clothes for dance/movement call (MT)
- 06 Grooming items like a comb, lipstick, hair ties, etc.
- 07 A snack!
- 08 If it's dry out, tea with honey or hard candy



*This may not apply to you if you will be singing to a track!



What to do The day of

What do you do on audition day to make sure that things go smoothly and you're feeling great?
Try these tips and ideas!

What to do on Audition Day

- 01 Do some light or moderate physical activity. Singing is easier when the body is warmed up. Stretch to loosen up any tightness and energize the body. Then get moving by taking a brisk walk or doing an exercise routine, but nothing too intense that's going to leave you exhausted.
- 02 Stay hydrated and well-fed. Make sure to drink plenty of water the day of your audition, as well as the day before. Eat a meal approximately 2-3 hours before your audition.
- 03 Warm up! Do your regular vocal warm up routine - whatever you normally do that makes you feel great. You want your voice to feel ready but not tired from too much use.
- 04 Get there early!
- 05 Use stress management techniques to help with nerves. There are many simple ones that can have a big impact, like box breathing or mindfulness! Learn some techniques in advance so you are prepared.
- 06 Be confident! You're ready and all that's left now is for you to show them what you've got! Focus on telling the story and connecting with the people in the room.



Inside the Audition Room

Use these tips to feel confidence once you get inside the audition room!

Inside the Room



- 01 Enter the room as your most confident self with your eyes up and a smile on your face. Say a friendly hello to the casting team.
- 02 If there is a live pianist, walk over to them and give them your binder with printed sheet music. Hum a few bars of your song to give them a sense of your tempo. Don't clap or conduct time to them. Briefly point out any other things they should know, like cuts or start/end points. Thank them!
- 03 Walk back to the middle of the room and give the casting team your best performance!
- 04 When you're done, smile, thank the team for their time, collect your binder, and confidently walk out of the room. You did it!



Post-audition Follow Up

The audition is over... now what? Here's what to do once the big day has passed.

After the Audition

Congratulations! You just did one of the bravest things a person can do!

First things first - take a moment and be in awe of yourself and how amazing and brave you are. Seriously.

Second, you can send a brief thank you if you feel inclined. Keep it short. Thank them for their time, tell them how much you enjoyed auditioning for the project, and that you look forward to working with them in the future.

Third, record the details of your audition in your audition log. Yes, you should have a log keeping track of when, where, who you auditioned for, and what you sang.

Finally, forget about the audition. Yes, that's right, forget about it. The best advice is to not get too attached to any one opportunity or project. The most successful and resilient performers let go of any expectations and simply treat their auditions like opportunities to perform. Once an audition is complete, they don't spend lots of time thinking about it; they simply move on to the next one.

If you get the role, solo, or gig - amazing! Congratulations!

And if you don't - there's always another one! Keep going!



Audition Prep Check List

One month out

- Find an audition and mark your calendar!
- Explore audition song options and choose one that you connect with.

Three weeks out

- Learn your audition song!
- Decide on your cut. Clearly mark it on your sheet music, if applicable.

Two weeks out

- Work on the acting. Figure out what your character wants, how they will get it, and what discoveries they have along the way.
- Start thinking about your audition outfit. See if you already have what you need or if you need to get anything.

One week out

- Make sure your performance is memorized!

One to two days out

- Prep your audition binder with the sheet music hole-punched and marked for the pianist, as well as your resume and head shot stapled back-to-back.
- Make sure your audition outfit is clean and ready to go.
- Pack your audition bag.



Perennial

VOICE STUDIO

Ready to up your vocal game?

If you're new to the audition circuit, all of this probably feels like A LOT.

And honestly, even if you're a seasoned auditioner, it's still A LOT to master.

If you're ready to up your vocal game, visit [Perennial Voice Studio](https://www.perennialvoice.com) to reach your vocal and performance goals.

[Schedule a free call today to get started!](https://www.perennialvoice.com)



About the Author

Jessica Walch is a recognized performer and voice teacher based in northern New Jersey who has performed professionally in musical theater, opera, operetta, and popular music. She owns and runs Perennial Voice Studio.

Jessica is an accomplished voice teacher who specializes in teaching musical theatre, contemporary, and classical styles. Her students have performed in major venues, been accepted into colleges and universities, been cast in leading roles in musicals, and have had a lot of fun along the way.

Jessica holds a masters in Vocal Performance from Montclair State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance from Muhlenberg College.

