

# Minnesota Music Educators Association



## How to Prepare for an All-State Vocal Audition

The audition will include the following:

1. Prepared solo
2. Range check
3. Tonal memory
4. Sight reading

How to get ready for the audition

- Choose an appropriate song for your level of singing that demonstrates the strength in your voice. In most cases, you should refrain from singing exceptionally difficult literature. Popular music, selections from musical theater, and operatic songs are not appropriate literature choices.
- The song should be sung in the range of the voice part for which you are auditioning.
- If you choose to sing in a foreign language, you must use correct pronunciation and be prepared to communicate the meaning of the text.
- The solo must be memorized and well-rehearsed. Do not try to learn the solo at the last minute.
- Be prepared for the judge to cut part of your selection if it is long or has repeated sections. If this occurs, be assured that it is to save time and is not because you are doing poorly.
- Bring two original copies of the solo to the audition. One is for the judge and the other is for the accompanist. You must not use illegal photocopies of copyrighted music in your audition or you will be disqualified. (In some cases, the use of photocopies is allowed, but you must show the judge the documentation — your director has more complete guidelines).
- No electronically generated accompaniments are permitted. Your accompanist will use the piano which is available in the audition room.
- During the range check, you will be asked to sing pitch patterns throughout your range to identify your consistency in different registers and find your area of greatest vocal ease. Be prepared to do this on all vowels. The judge will assist you with this procedure.
- To check your tonal memory, you will be asked to repeat pitch patterns in various ranges.
- Sight-reading will be included in all auditions. You will be shown the sight-reading music and will have a reasonable amount of time to study the exercises before beginning. The judge will give the starting note for each exercise. The judge will not set the tempo or assist you with rhythm, pitch, dynamics or style. Solfege, numbers, or neutral syllables are all acceptable. Decide prior to the audition which method you are most comfortable with and will use during the audition. Practice sight-reading using this method.

Tips for a successful audition

- Be well-rested.
- Do not perform the audition on an empty stomach, but do not overeat just prior to singing.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid caffeine.

- Avoid solutions that are MYTHS, such as cough drops or throat sprays that numb the throat, antihistamines, and lemons. If necessary, you could use sugarless candy or drink hot (non-caffeinated) herbal tea or hot water with honey.
- This is a formal audition. Dress appropriately.
- NEVER APOLOGIZE for your health. No excuses — just do it! If you are not feeling 100% healthy, do the best you can for that day.
- Enter the room and find a focus point. Allow yourself some slow, relaxed breaths. This will help calm your nerves.
- Introduce your piece. A sample introduction would be: “Good afternoon/evening. I will be performing (name of selection) by (composer).”
- You may be asked a few additional questions by the judge during your audition, including your current grade and your ensemble preference, if you are auditioning for more than one group.
- Look at the audition as an opportunity for an experience, rather than a judgment