



Audition Tips from CTE

Auditioning is a very specialized kind of stage work and with only minutes to make a favorable impression, an actor needs to be prepared and confident. Auditioning is a skill to be learned and practiced!

Whether you are trying out for your first show or have already been in dozens, every audition counts and requires preparation and focus. Below are some proven tips that will help you put your best foot forward and have a great audition:

- **Be in good voice**

You wouldn't run a race without stretching, so don't sing without warming up. Also get plenty of rest before an audition and be as healthy as possible. Drink a lot of water and eat a good meal.

- **Know the show**

Know the show you're auditioning for. The more knowledge you have about what you are auditioning for the better your preparation will be. Never go into an audition without knowing the story, listening to the soundtrack if available, or knowing the style or genre of the show.

- **Choose a song that is appropriate for your voice and appropriate for the show.**

Sing a song that fits you well. Pick an appropriate song for your gender, age, and ability. Do not choose a song that is too high or too low; choose a song that makes you sound your best! Do not choose your favorite pop song for a traditional musical theatre audition. Even if you sing it well, it does not help the production staff in casting.

- **Prepare your audition piece**

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. A good rule is to have your audition piece picked out and memorized a week before your audition. Remember that 16-24 measures (30 seconds to 1 minute) are more than enough for an audition.



- **Do not use recorded accompaniment unless requested**

Most musical theatre auditions will provide a live accompanist. Use this to your advantage!!! Auditions without accompaniment never go as well as those with a live accompanist. Also refrain from singing a cappella (with no accompaniment).

- **Prepare your sheet music for your audition**

Tape your music together for your accompanist to play without page turns. Make sure the copies are legible and do not cut off any of the music. Clearly label where you are starting and ending your audition and avoid skipping sections entirely. It's always good to include the title page if you are starting in the middle of the song; it provides a ton of information for your accompanist.

- **Have confidence**

You're on stage! Stand tall and show that "stage presence" and don't be shy!

- **Do not apologize or give excuses**

Never start off your audition with a negative statement. Go in, do your best, and never give a director a reason to doubt you.

- **Dress your best and dress for the audition**

Dress nice, but be able to move if you have to dance. Please wear proper attire for dance: something comfortable, but no baggy clothing or dresses! Please wear proper dance shoes: please wear clean

sneakers or jazz shoes, no heels, no sandals, and no flip flops. You have a very short time to make an impression; don't make it a bad one by dressing like a slob.

- **Be friendly and ask questions**

Good manners go a long way. Be personable with a smile on your face. The director is about to focus only on you, so start off on a positive note. If you have a question, ask. If you need a dance step or other instruction repeated, ask questions. Keep smiling and stay positive even if you make a mistake!

- **Sing out**

Project your voice so you can be heard! You need to fill the audition room with your voice so the production staff knows you can do the same on stage. Clear diction and pronunciation is always a must.



- **Be flexible**

If the production staff asks to you sing your piece again or sing a scale to determine your range, don't hesitate. They are just trying to figure out your abilities, so do what they ask and be flexible.

- **Have fun**

Being on stage is a lot of fun, so show that in your audition. Directors are always looking for those people who want to be on stage.

Suggested music for auditions

Some vocal music books include a CD with piano accompaniment playing the actual sheet music which is great for rehearsing in the proper key and deciding what section to sing for the audition. Check with music teachers at school to see about obtaining some music and assistance with auditions.

- **Music resources**

Below are some ideas for music resources to give you a starting point.

- **Local music store:** Schaumburg Music: 847-891-1260 ~ 1429 W. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg
Good stock of music on hand or they can order it for you.

Online:

- Free sheet music to download (**very** limited): http://www.8notes.com/voice_sheet_music.asp
- Music for sale, some instant downloads:
<http://www.sheetmusicplus.com> or <http://www.musicnotes.com>

For younger singers (links are provided so you can look at the song list and description from one site)

- [Kids' Musical Theatre Collection Volume 1](#): Includes 29 songs from stage, screen, and TV musicals and piano accompaniment CD for rehearsal; online \$24.99. Also see Volume 2.
- [Broadway Presents! Kids' Musical Theatre Anthology](#): Includes audition tips, suggestions for 16-bar cuts, and accompaniment CD; online \$22.95.

For older singers:

- [16 Bar Theatre Audition](#): Available for Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor, and Bass/Baritone. This book contains over 100 audition pieces; online \$19.99.
- [Broadway Presents! Teens' Musical Theatre Anthology](#): Songs from stage and film with accompaniment CD, available for male or female; online \$24.95.

Best wishes on your best audition ever from all of us at CTE  FVTC **!!!!**