

Vocal Music Audition Procedures

Any vocalist who feels qualified may audition, regardless of special training or formal involvement with choirs or ensembles. Your audition will be approximately 15 minutes in length. During this time you will present two prepared solos (which may be interrupted at the discretion of the judges). One of the solos is to be a show tune and the other a classical piece. You may also be asked to perform sight-reading (furnished by GSA), participate in a pitch memory exercise, and participate in a brief interview with the judges. In the pitch memory exercise, a series of notes will be played for you by the accompanist and you will be asked to sing the notes back at the correct pitches, unaccompanied.

- We suggest that your solos be two to four minutes in length. You should begin your audition by introducing yourself and your audition piece to the judges;
- Memorized solos are preferred but not required. We encourage you to do what makes you feel most comfortable; You should prepare a piece that is the best example of your performance without being excessively simple;
- Selections need not be in a foreign language;
- Rap selections are not appropriate for vocal music auditions;
- An accompanist is provided at the audition site. You must use the provided accompanist, and you must provide music for the accompanist. GSA accompanists are not provided for rehearsal or in the practice rooms, although you may bring an accompanist with you for warm-up and rehearsal;
- Taped accompaniment is not allowed. In addition to the accompanist's score, you must provide a copy of the score for the judges;
- You will be assessed on vocal potential, tone production, accuracy of pitch and rhythm, diction, proper musical interpretation and sight-reading;
- Students should consider their own vocal strengths when choosing a musical selection, and they should weigh the difficulty of the pieces. Although it is not wise to pick a selection that is too difficult to perform, it is also unwise to choose something very easy. Use your judgment! Ask your music teacher for advice about your selection.

Tips and suggestions on how to better prepare for and present your GSA audition/review.

The following tips may be repetitious, but they are very important. They are NOT eligibility requirements for admittance to GSA.

- Choose solos suited to your current ability. GSA highly recommends candidates choose solo selections in Italian or English. French and German sometimes demand young singers to make sounds and vowel choices that may compromise sound quality;

- Operatic arias by composers such as Puccini, Menotti and other 20th century composers are really better suited for collegiate singers, so please choose wisely;
- If you perform a foreign-language solo, make certain that you are prepared to explain either a translation or give a brief synopsis of the events described in the song;
- Develop expressiveness and passion in your singing;
Practice to develop good intonation by recording yourself and listening;
- Practice sight-singing! Sight singing may be performed on any syllable of the singers choosing;
- All singers must bring a copy of their music for the accompanist. Applicants may not use a CD or recordings as the accompaniment;
 - For the audition, be prepared to pass on any notes to the accompanist regarding tempo, repeats, etc.;
- Be prepared to talk about your experience in music—school/church choir, ensembles, private studies, etc.;
- Be prepared to talk about why you are passionate about music and why you are interested in attending GSA;
- Consider practicing mock auditions for your teacher, peers or family members;
- Wear professional clothing (e.g., dress slacks, shirt, and shoes for men—ties, jackets and suits are not necessary; dresses, skirts, or pants for women), but dress comfortably.

Do not overdress or under dress in anything that could cause a distraction from your audition.