

Spotlight Classical Voice Rules

What's required of me for my Classical Voice Preliminary 1 video Audition?

All students begin with a Preliminary 1 video audition. Those scoring highest will advance to Preliminary 2 live auditions in January 2020. Those scoring highest after Preliminary 2 will advance to the Semifinals.

- Please prepare and memorize one piece: It can be either a piece from Category 1 OR a piece from Category 2 listed below
- The piece must not exceed 3 minutes. This may require cutting repeats. The fact that you do not sing a piece in its entirety will not be held against you in judging
- Arias must be in the original keys; *Arie antiche* and pieces should be in keys suitable to voice type. You may sing with a CD, or provide your own accompanist
- If selected to advance to Preliminary 2, you will sing **two** contrasting songs for your live audition; one from Category 1 and one from Category 2

Category 1: One art song/Baroque aria from the 24 Italian Songs & Arias Book (or subsequent editions)

Or any piece written by one of the following composers: Argento, Bach (JS) (arias OK), Barber, Beach, Beethoven, Bellini, Bernstein, Bizet, Bolcom, Brahms, Britten, Carissimi, Cavalli, Chausson, Copland, Da Falla, Debussy, Delibes, Donaudy, Donizetti, Dougherty, Dowland, Duke, Elgar, Faure, Finzi, Foster, Franck, Granados, Hahn, Handel (arias OK), Haydn, Hoiby, Hundley, Ives, Kohn, Massenet, Mendelssohn (both), Monteverdi (arias OK), Mozart, Paladihe, Pergolesi (arias OK), Poulenc, Purcell, Quilter, Ravel, Rodrigo, Rorem, Rossini, Saint-Saens, Sarti (28 Italian Songs & Arias, the new edition), Scarlatti, Schubert, Schumann (both), Strauss (Richard), Tosti, Vaughan-Williams, Vivaldi (arias OK), Wolf

Category 2: One art song, spiritual (suggested arrangements: Burleigh or Hogan), or aria from the standard classical vocal & operatic repertoire. Classical Operettas are allowed. Examples: Gilbert and Sullivan is allowed. "What Good Would the Moon Be?" from *Street Scene* by Kurt Weill is allowed. Andrew Lloyd Webber is not allowed in this category.

Accompaniment Requirements

- Make sure the level of your piano accompaniment or CD does not overpower the sound of your voice in the recording
- Any lengthy piano introductions should be abridged

Guidelines for Recording Your Audition

- Your recording device can be a cell phone, tablet, camera, etc. You do NOT have to rent fancy recording equipment. We will refer to the recording devices as "cameras"
- Your song should contain the following introduction: My song is (title) from (Opera) by (composer). OR: My song is (title) by (composer)
- Dress appropriately as you would for a live audition. Please refrain from wearing excessive jewelry or glasses
- Use a fixed point of view for your camera. Shoot straight on, leaving the camera in one location
- Please be sure your image is clear. The panel must be able to see your facial expressions to properly adjudicate your work

- **No sound manipulation, editing or enhancement (e. g. reverberation, auto-tune, frequency equalization, microphones external to video recorder, etc.) are allowed. Sound edits will be grounds for disqualification**
- Your video should be one continuous shot with no editing. Any edits will be grounds for disqualification
- When recording with a tablet or cellphone, use the landscape/horizontal mode for best results

Before recording your piece, film a test. Perform the first few lines of your selection, then watch and listen to it on playback. Check the following important things:

- **Sound:** Make sure the acoustics in the room are suitable for a recording. Practice your piece in the space. Please ensure the balance of the volume between piano and voice is appropriate. If possible, don't sing in a room with wall to wall carpet as it might affect the sound. Make sure there is no noise coming from other rooms near you as you record
- **Lighting:** Make sure the space is well-lit, but not too bright. Judges should be able to see your face clearly. Too little light and judges cannot see you. Too much light will leave you overexposed and your expressions will be washed out
- **Framing:** The camera should be set at a distance to frame your face and body clearly. If judges only see your face and shoulders, it's too close. If judges can see the entire stage but your facial expressions cannot be seen clearly, it's too far away

How To Submit Your Audition Video

- After you have recorded your piece, watch it in playback to make sure you can be seen and the music heard
- When uploading, verify that image is upright (not sideways) and plays smoothly
- Save and name your file and upload into application
- Please do not do any of the following as it may disqualify you:
 - Do not edit within the piece
 - Do not use special effects, dissolves, fades or wipes
 - Do not submit pre-recorded live performances, such as recitals, concerts, or competitions

What Judges are Looking For

- Tone Production - the ability to achieve a quality of sound appropriate to the type of voice and to the style of the music
- Technique - the degree to which the performer has acquired control of the voice
- Diction - accurate pronunciation and clear articulation
- Intonation - singing in tune
- Interpretation - the ability to accurately express the piece performed with a clear understanding of its meaning and attention to the composer's directions
- Phrasing - sensitivity to the need for phrasing and the ability to execute it
- Please show personality and character

Please be sure you follow all requirements related to your application. Failure to comply with any of the requirements listed below may result in disqualification during the review process and/or make your application ineligible for an award.

To start or complete your Spotlight application, go to: <https://app.getacceptd.com/musiccenter>. If your application is already open, simply click on the Acceptd tab on your computer to return to it.

Got Questions??? Email us at spotlight@musiccenter.org