

Spotlight Non-Classical Voice Rules

What's required of me for my Non-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 and February 2020. Those scoring highest after Preliminary 2 will advance to the Semifinals.

- Please memorize and sing one song not to exceed 3 minutes. This may require eliminating repeats. The fact that you do not sing a piece in its entirety will not be held against you in judging
- Your song may be in the style of pop, jazz, country, gospel, musical theater, or foreign language songs
- Operettas are not allowed in this category
- Select songs that are appropriate for your age and vocal ability
- If selected to advance to Preliminary 2, you will sing two songs of your choice for your live audition

Accompaniment Requirements

- Accompaniment is limited to piano (preferred), guitar or pre-recorded CD/MP3 without any other vocals
- You may accompany yourself (piano, guitar, etc.) keeping in mind only the vocals are being adjudicated
- Make sure the level of your accompaniment 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 (Musical) 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 if possible. Please do not wear anything too revealing
- 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. Do not pan, move the camera or follow the vocalist. 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 song, film a test. Perform the first few lines of your song, 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 between accompaniment 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 judges cannot see your expressions
- **Framing:** The camera should be set at a distance to frame your face and body clearly. Camera image should be no closer than waist up. 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 song, 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 solo
 - 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
- Phrasing - sensitivity to the need for phrasing and the ability to execute it
- Your unique 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