

MUSICAL AUDITION TIPS: HOW TO HELP THE ACCOMPANIST HELP YOU!

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USE THESE POINTERS TO GAIN THE MOST FROM YOUR SINGING AUDITION EXPERIENCE.

- ACCOMPANIST (uh-kuhmp-uh-nist)
- Always remember you are the one auditioning - your job/role is on the line - and be professional when speaking with the accompanist. You never know when the artistic team may ask his/her opinion!
- NEVER ASSUME. Just because you are familiar with a certain work doesn't mean others are.
- Anyone seriously auditioning for a musical role should have at least a basic understanding of music. If you don't understand musical terms, find someone to help you (i.e. a vocal coach) or get a reference book of some kind. Being able to communicate with the accompanist in a quick and efficient manner is crucial to a successful audition. Remember, you are the one auditioning, not the accompanist. You want to make the audition work for YOU.
- Try to have as few page turns as possible. As a general rule, if you have more than five pages use a binder. If you use a three ring-binder for your music, get *matte* plastic sheet covers. They are inexpensive and are easier to turn. The glossy covers reflect light and are hard to see, so make sure to get *matte*.
- Transpositions – don't assume that the accompanist can transpose on sight. Do your best to come in with your music in YOUR key.
- Cutting – Finding the right section of a song to use can be tricky. Generally, the end of a song is a much better choice than the beginning. Or, look for the "money note" and try to find a good cutting that shows that off. Again, finding someone who is knowledgeable about music might be a wise decision if you are unsure about your 16 bars.
- KNOW YOUR MATERIAL and try to have rehearsed it with live (piano) accompaniment. The accompanist may not play the song exactly as you know it or the arrangement may be different. The more comfortable you are with the song, the easier it will be to adjust.
- To indicate tempo, sing a bit of the song for the accompanist. RELAX! Nerves can cause you to give an incorrect tempo. This is only one reason to KNOW YOUR MATERIAL.
- Don't stop unless you absolutely have to. If an accompanist is good he or she will catch you and be able to follow. Remember, an audition is just as much about how you react under pressure as it is how well you act and sing.
- NEVER snap your fingers or slap your leg or otherwise indicate tempo while you are singing. If nothing else it is rude. If you are comfortable with your song, you should be able to control the tempo merely by singing at a faster or slower tempo—the accompanist should adjust.
- Above all, try to relax and focus on your work, know your material well enough to relate it to a stranger, and you will have a successful audition.