

ALL-STATE AUDITION TIPS

I am glad that you have decided to audition for All-State Chorus! When you first get your sheet music and audio files, the amount of music that you have to learn may seem overwhelming. Do not fear! You are fully capable of learning this music and having a great audition. If you follow the guidelines below, you should do very well.

How to have the best possible audition:

- Familiarize yourself with your music and audio files. Note the different types of rehearsal tracks. There will usually be a track where someone sings your part, a track where the piano plays your part loudly while also playing the accompaniment, and a track with accompaniment only. There may also be a pronunciation track for foreign language pieces.
- Highlight or underline your part in each song.
- Number each measure (this is required to audition! Do this now!)
- Search the Internet (YouTube.com, Spotify, etc.) for full performances of the pieces so that you have a better understanding of how they should sound.
- Listen to each piece, and make helpful notes in your music (note/circle difficult rhythms, strange pronunciations, difficult intervals, etc).
- Practice music regularly (at least every other day).
- Start with the more difficult songs first, and learn them a little at a time.
- Check your progress by singing with the “accompaniment only” track as you go. Do not wait until you think you have learned the whole song to try singing with the “accompaniment only” track.
- Once you have mastered a section of a song (meaning that you have sung it correctly at least 3 times in a row with only the accompaniment) make a light check in pencil above each measure you mastered. This keeps you from practicing the sections that you already know over and over.
- If possible, practice the songs a cappella at different tempos. Your judge may decide to have you sing faster or slower than the rehearsal track accompaniments.
- Once you have mastered a song, mostly practice with the “accompaniment only” track, but go back to the track with the voice every once in a while to make sure you are right.
- Use good vowels, good tone, minimal vibrato, etc. You want to sound like a choir singer when you are auditioning for All-State, not a soloist. If you go by the rules for vowels, blend, tone, and others that I give you in class, you should do well.
- **Anyone can listen to the rehearsal tracks, learn the notes, words, and rhythms, and sing it back to the judge.** What will set you apart from every other student who auditions is your attention to the musicality of the piece. Incorporate correct dynamics, articulations, word stresses, phrasing, etc. as you learn the music even if the voice on the audio track does not do so.
- Keep up with your music, and keep it organized.

I will host *optional* rehearsals for you to come to if you need additional help with learning your music before or after school, by appointment only. During these rehearsals, I will not sit at the piano and teach you your part. This is why you have the rehearsal tracks. If you need a specific section of music that is difficult for you or if you just want me to check your progress, I will be more than willing to help. Good Luck!