2017-2018 NYC High School Admissions Vocal Music Audition Guide

Everything you need to know about Vocal Music audition programs

NYC Department of Education

Contents

Section 1 — How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help students and families prepare for the audition process. Through this guide you will:

- **Learn about vocal music.** What do vocal music programs entail? What can you expect as a vocal music student? See the description below for more information.

- **Understand the audition process.** The overview on page two will let you know what to expect at a high school audition.

- **Review the Common Audition Components.** High schools that participate in Common Audition Components share the same audition guidelines. This guide includes the common audition components for participating vocal music programs.

- **Prepare for the auditions.** Learn about audition components and tips for doing your best during an audition.

- **Build a list of vocal music programs that interest you.** Browse this guide for a complete list of New York City high schools that offer programs to cultivate artistic talent. Use Section 6 to list the programs that look like a good fit for you and start creating your fall audition schedule.

- **Create your audition schedule.** Review the audition information and schedules for each program to plan your own audition calendar. For each program, there is a list of what to prepare for the audition, and what you will do at the audition.

What is Vocal Music?

Vocal music is performed by one or more singers, with or without instrumental accompaniment, in which singing provides the main focus of the piece. Vocal music students commonly study sight-reading, music theory, music history and repertoire, and vocal technique, and gain an understanding of music's social and cultural impact. Students may take daily solo voice and will participate in large ensembles and chorus classes. They may have performance opportunities throughout all four years of high school.

Section 2 — High School Audition Process Overview

Some high schools host auditions

An audition is a type of admissions method. To gain admission to certain high school arts programs, students must exhibit artistic skills at an audition. Auditions are also a great opportunity for students to meet school staff and ask questions about programs.

Students are expected to prepare and perform at an audition

Audition expectations will vary by high school program. Students should review the audition criteria that is published by schools in the High School Directory. If a student is auditioning for multiple programs focusing on the same art form, many audition components will be similar across the auditions (see program details in this guide for audition information). Students should note that they may not get to present everything that they have prepared for the audition.

Auditions are run by high schools

Typically auditions are run by school administrators and teachers. Some high schools have their current students assist with welcoming auditioning students and their families.

Audition dates, arrival times and locations may vary

Auditions are usually held at high schools from October to January. See program details in this guide for audition schedules.

Audition lengths may vary

The audition process can take 2-3 hours or longer. Students are encouraged to bring a light snack and water to auditions. Families should not register for auditions at multiple schools on the same day.

Families can wait nearby

There is often a designated waiting area for parents/guardians, as they are not allowed in the audition areas. Parents/guardians may choose to leave and re-enter the school building at any time. Communication between the student and their families should be made prior to the beginning of the audition process.

Acceptance to audition programs

In order to be considered for audition programs, students must also list the program on their High School Admissions Round 1 Application, which is due to their school counselor on December 1, 2017. Students will receive the results of the Round 1 Application the following March.

Questions about the audition process

This guide should answer most of your questions about the audition process. If you have specific questions about a school's audition, it's best to call or email the school directly for more information or visit the school website.

Audition accommodations

Students with individualized education programs (IEPs), approved 504 plans, and English Language Learners, may receive accommodations. Students should speak with their school counselor to arrange accommodations for auditions.

Section 3 — Audition Pre-registration and Common Audition Components

Below is some vocabulary about the audition process that families will need to learn as they prepare for auditions. These terms will also be found throughout the table in section five of this guide.

Pre-registration for Auditions

Certain audition programs require students to pre-register through the DOE's enrollment system. By pre-registering, students let school administrators know that they are attending the audition, and what program they are auditioning for. Students interested in auditioning for these programs may pre-register from September 7, 2017 to October 12, 2017. School counselors provide students with pre-registration surveys and complete pre-registration in the DOE enrollment system.

When pre-registration is not required for an audition, students are encouraged to check the school's website for an opportunity to register online. Otherwise students simply attend the audition for the on the date and time listed by the school in the High School Directory.

Programs with Common Audition Components

A select group of schools have programs that offer common audition components, which are indicated by the ★ icon next to the school name in section five of this document. These programs all share the same audition components so if students prepare for one they may be ready to audition at another participating program.

Common Audition Components – Vocal Music Programs
You can also find this information on Page 27 of the 2018 New York City High School Directory

Perform a song in a medium key that you have prepared and bring the sheet music. Song recommendations may also be listed on schools' websites. Vocal singers will also be asked to repeat vocal phrases to test rhythm, tonal memory, and basic vocal technique. Ability to incorporate directions from teacher will be considered.

Programs may have different "tests" that they offer on-site, including an interview, or on-demand writing sample, which may impact your preparation. Please read each school's audition information in this document. Also be sure to visit the school webpage, or contact the school directly for the most up-to-date details.

Section 4 — How To Prepare for a Vocal Music Audition

How to Prepare for a Vocal Music Audition

Selecting and Practicing Your Audition Repertoire

- Try to choose your repertoire well in advance of the audition.
- Select music that is written specifically for voice (not music for which your vocal part provides the harmony for other voices).
- Select music that highlights your strengths. A difficult selection sung well can show off your skills. However, an easier selection sung with strong musicality and good intonation can be equally impressive.
- Isolate and practice your weak areas. Spend time building your capacity so that all sections of your piece are performed with equal competency.
- Use a tuner and a metronome during the early stages of your practice to help with pitch and rhythm.
- Practice performing your audition repertoire in front of an audience. Ask them to critique your performance and overall presentation.
- Practice sight-reading every day.

Vocal Audition

- Prepare at least two pieces in contrasting styles from memory. However, you may not be asked to sing a second selection.
- Choose songs from musical theater productions, American traditions, world-folk traditions, or art song collections. **Note: Most schools discourage performing R&B, Rock, and Rap selections for the audition. Check each school's preferences.**
- Be prepared to match pitches, echo rhythms and melodies provided by the adjudicator.
- Be prepared to vocalize (arpeggios, leaps, runs, etc.) to demonstrate vocal range and placement.

General Audition Advice

- Keep going even if you make a mistake. Do not get flustered. The adjudicator is most interested in determining your potential.
- If the adjudicator asks you to change the way you performed a passage, it doesn't necessarily mean you played or sang it incorrectly. He or she may wish to see how readily you are able to receive feedback and/or make a correction.

Resources for Selecting your Repertoire

- Ask your music teacher for help when selecting repertoire.
- New York State School Music Association Manual, Edition 31. A professional resource for teachers and conductors, this book contains graded lists of repertoire for all voice types and instruments. It is available in some libraries or may be purchased from www.nyssma.org at a cost of $55.
- You may be able to purchase sheet music for your repertoire at the following stores: Sam Ash Music, The Guitar Center Stores, Music Time (on line), J. W. Pepper (on line), Catalano Music (Long Island).

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Section 5 — High School Programs and Audition Information

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Below is a list of New York City high schools that offer vocal music programs requiring an audition, including audition schedules and requirements. School names link to each school's website; program names link to each school's page in NYC School Finder (http://schoolfinder.nyc.gov).

Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music ★	2780 Reservoir Avenue 10468	BRONX
Program: Chorus	Directory pg. 79	Code: X33B

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details)

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Come prepared to sing a song of your choice, without accompaniment.
- ☐ Rhythm, pitch-matching, and ability to sing in harmony with others will be evaluated.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: (*Pre-registration is not required, see section 3 for details*)
- ▪ Friday, November 17, 2017 at 4pm
- ▪ Friday, December 1, 2017 at 4pm
- ▪ Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9am
- ▪ Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 9am

Fordham High School for the Arts	500 East Fordham Road 10458	BRONX
Program: Fordham High School for the Arts	Directory pg. 98	Code: X51A

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ Prepare a song without CD/piano accompaniment from the following list: Amazing Grace, Simple Gifts, The National Anthem (Star Spangled Banner), My Favorite Things, God Bless America, Happy Birthday, and Somewhere. Students should avoid Top 40 or Pop music when at all possible.

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Perform your prepared song.
- ☐ Applicants will also be evaluated on tonal memory, rhythmic and aural skills, and vocal technique through teacher-led vocal exercises.
- ☐ The audition includes a writing prompt.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: (*Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details*)
- ▪ Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 9am
- ▪ Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 9am
- ▪ Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9am

Theater Arts Production Company School (TAPCo) ★	2225 Webster Avenue 10457	BRONX
Program: Chorus	Directory pg. 149	Code: X20C

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details)

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Perform a song without accompaniment.
- ☐ Audition includes on-site music tasks in which originality, pitch, and one's ability to harmonize with other singers will be assessed. Check school website (tapconyc.org) for suggestions.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: (*Pre-registration is not required, see section 3 for details*)
- ▪ Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 1:30pm
- ▪ Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 1:30pm
- ▪ Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 1:30pm

Brooklyn High School of the Arts ★	345 Dean Street 11217	BROOKLYN
Program: Vocal Music	Directory pg. 201	Code: K47M

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details)

2017-2018 Audition Dates: (*Pre-registration is not required, see section 3 for details*)
- ▪ Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 4pm
- ▪ Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 9am
- ▪ Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 4pm
- ▪ Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 9 am

Dr. Susan S. McKinney Secondary School of the Arts	101 Park Avenue 11205	BROOKLYN
Program: Vocal Music	Directory pg. 226	Code: K57J

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ Students must perform a song (classical, popular, or gospel) a cappella. Rhythm and tonal memory, improvisational skills, intonation, accuracy of pitch, breath support, and diction will be tested.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: (*Pre-registration is not required, see section 3 for details*)
- ▪ Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 3:30pm
- ▪ Friday, November 3, 2017 at 3:30pm
- ▪ Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 10am
- ▪ Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 3:30pm
- ▪ Friday, November 17, 2017 at 3:30pm

Edward R. Murrow High School ★	1600 Avenue L 11230	BROOKLYN
Program: Vocal Music	Directory pg. 233	Code: K57J

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details), and requests the following:
- ☐ For guidance choosing a piece to perform at the audition, go to www.ermurrowhs.org, and click on the music symbol for a list of recommended songs.

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Perform a song without accompaniment. Students may bring sheet music.
- ☐ Students will do a music aptitude assessment (such as matching pitches, singing scales, etc.).

2017-2018 Audition Dates: (*Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details*)
- ▪ Last Name G-I, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 8:30am
- ▪ Last Name J-L, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 9:30am
- ▪ Last Name A-C, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 12:30pm
- ▪ Last Name D-F, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 1:30pm
- ▪ Last Name T-U, Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 8:30am
- ▪ Last Name V-Z, Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9:30am
- ▪ Last Name M-S, Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 12:30pm

Fort Hamilton High School	8301 Shore Road 11209	BROOKLYN
Program: Vocal Music	Directory pg. 239	Code: K17S

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Students will be asked to demonstrate the ability to match pitch by singing short melodies which are played on the piano, tap rhythms back to demonstrate the ability to measure time and sing a prepared selection of their choice.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: (*Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details*)
- ▪ Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 10am
- ▪ Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 10am
- ▪ Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 10am
- ▪ Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 10am

Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts ★	100 Amsterdam Avenue 10023	MANHATTAN
Program: Vocal Music	Directory pg. 361	NO CODE

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ Applicants should prepare a song to sing without accompaniment for the audition. The musical selection can be classical or popular in style.
- ☐ LaGuardia High School has a suggested online song list (www.laguardiahs.org). Applicants are not required to select from the song list.

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Sing a prepared song without accompaniment.
- ☐ Applicants will be asked to sing back melodic patterns and tap back rhythmic patterns.

Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts is a Specialized High School. Register with your counselor.

Professional Performing Arts High School (PPAS)	328 West 48th Street 10036	MANHATTAN
Program: Classical Vocal Music	Directory pg. 429	Code: M81K

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ Classical selections for the memorized music selection component of the audition can be found in either Twenty-Four Italian Songs and Arias or The Art Song Anthology.

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Present a memorized classical music selection. The song must demonstrate vocal skills and ability. Do not present rock, pop, gospel, country, musical theater, Disney, or contemporary music.
- ☐ You must bring sheet music for your song to the audition; an accompanist will be provided.
- ☐ Vocal musicianship (the ability to sing scales, sing a cappella, etc.) will be tested at the audition.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: *(Pre-registration is not required, see section 3 for details)*
- ▪ Manhattan, Bronx & Staten Island: Last name A-L, Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 8am
- ▪ Manhattan, Bronx & Staten Island: Last name M-Z, Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 12pm
- ▪ Brooklyn & Queens: Last Name A-L, Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 8am
- ▪ Brooklyn & Queens: Last Name M-Z, Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 12pm

Special Music School ★	122 Amsterdam Avenue 10023	MANHATTAN
Program: Voice, Instrument, and Composition	Directory pg. 437	Code: A85A

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details)

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Audition performance, improvisation workshop, theory diagnostic, sight-reading, and instrument desirability.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: *(Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details)*
- ▪ Friday, November 10, 2017 at 10am
- ▪ Monday, November 13, 2017 at 4pm
- ▪ Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 4pm
- ▪ Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 4pm
- ▪ Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 4pm

Talent Unlimited High School ★	317 East 67th Street 10065	MANHATTAN
Program: Vocal Music: Classical and Contemporary	Directory pg. 441	Code: M42K

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details)

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Come prepared to sing from memory, in a medium key, (A) "Amazing Grace," "Over the Rainbow," "Silent Night," or "The Star Spangled Banner;" OR (B) a classical or musical theater selection.
- ☐ For the classical or musical theater selection applicants must bring the sheet music in the key in which they will sing.
- ☐ Applicants must sing with the provided accompanist.
- ☐ Applicants should be able to demonstrate both chest and head voice and will be asked to repeat vocal phrases in order to demonstrate rhythm, tonal memory, and basic vocal technique. Ability to take direction will be strongly considered.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: *(Pre-registration is not required, see section 3 for details)*
- ▪ Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 8am
- ▪ Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 3pm
- ▪ Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 3pm
- ▪ Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 8am
- ▪ Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 3pm

Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing & Visual Arts ★	215 West 114th St. 10026	MANHATTAN
Program: Vocal Music	Directory pg. 465	Code: M26R

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ This program uses common audition components (see section 3 for details)

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Perform two contrasting selections from memory (acapella).
- ☐ Be prepared to vocalize and sight-read.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: *(Pre-registration is not required, see section 3 for details)*
- ▪ Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 4:30pm
- ▪ Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 4:30pm
- ▪ Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 11:30am
- ▪ Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 4:30pm
- ▪ Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 11:30am

Bayside High School ★	32-24 Corporal Kennedy Street, Bayside 11361	QUEENS
Program: Performance & Production	Directory pg. 483	Code: Q12B

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details)

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Sing a prepared musical selection in any style.
- ☐ Beginning students are encouraged to attend the audition for a musical aptitude test, as well as an interview.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: *(Pre-registration is not required, see section 3 for details)*
- ▪ Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 9am
- ▪ Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 9am

Forest Hills High School ★	67-01 110th Street, Forest Hills 11375	QUEENS
Program: Academy of Instrumental and Vocal Music	Directory pg. 503	Code: Q19P

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details)

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Perform a prepared vocal selection.
- ☐ Provide sheet music for pianist.
- ☐ The audition includes onsite music tasks (may include singing back melodic patterns, tapping back rhythmic patterns, play selected scales, or completing a sight reading, music theory, or improvisation task).

2017-2018 Audition Dates: *(Pre-registration is not required, see section 3 for details)*
- ▪ Last name A-L, Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 4pm
- ▪ Last name M-Z, Monday, November 13, 2017 4pm
- ▪ Make-up, Thursday, November 16, 2017 4pm

Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School	35-12 35th Avenue, Astoria 11106	QUEENS
Program: Vocal Music	Directory pg. 508	Code: Q40L

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Perform one minute of a classical or a standard musical theater piece (accompaniment will be provided).
- ☐ Bring sheet music in your key.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: *(Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details)*
- ▪ Queens; Last Name A-M, Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 7:30am
- ▪ Queens; Last Name N-Z, Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 7:30am
- ▪ Citywide; Last Name A-M, Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 7:30am
- ▪ Citywide; Last Name N-Z, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 7:30am
- ▪ Make-Up, Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 7:30am
- ▪ Make-Up, Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 7:30am

Susan E. Wagner High School	1200 Manor Road 10314	STATEN ISLAND
Program: Music	Directory pg. 600	Code: R17G

What to prepare for the audition:
- ☐ Select from the required materials found on the Wagner website: www.wagnerhigh.net.

What you will do at the audition:
- ☐ Perform a brief vocal audition including the required materials.

2017-2018 Audition Dates: *(Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details)*
- ▪ Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 2:45pm
- ▪ Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 2:45pm
- ▪ Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 2:45pm

Section 6 — Your Personal Audition Schedule

Create your personal audition schedule by listing the high school programs that you are interested in, noting the audition date/time, and checking if pre-registration is required.

My Audition Program/ School:	Audition Date/Time:	Pre-registration Required?
1.		☐
2.		☐
3.		☐
4.		☐
5.		☐
6.		☐
7.		☐
8.		☐
9.		☐
10.		☐
11.		☐
12.		☐
13.		☐
14.		☐
15.		☐
16.		☐
17.		☐
18.		☐
19.		☐
20.		☐