



Audition Tips for Singers

1.) Choose a song that suits you best and shows your strengths best.

Just because you like a particular song doesn't mean it's the right song for your voice. "Defying Gravity" is great but most people can't sing like Idina Menzel. We are not looking for a particular genre or style of song. We don't want to hear you try to sing like someone else. Be *your* best self.

2.) Prepare your audition material.

Do not choose a song the day of the auditions. Practice during the days leading up to the audition and do vocal warm-ups before you sing (especially before your audition). Know the music like you know your first and last name. Know the pitches, rhythms, the words, any places where you rest, the tempo (the speed of the song), and be familiar with the accompaniment. (Singing a cappella – without musical accompaniment - is **STRONGLY** discouraged!) Being prepared can help lower your anxiety. Practice in front of a mirror so you can see what you actually look like performing. Record yourself and play it back so that you can hear exactly what the judges will hear.

3.) Be in good voice.

Do vocal warm-ups before you sing for the judges! If you do not know any vocal warm-ups contact Ms. Kinney at kinney@warrick.k12.in.us and she will send you a recording you can use.

4.) Have a properly prepared accompaniment.

If you need an accompanist, make sure you have the proper sheet music. Ms. Kinney will play for you at the audition. If you have a recorded instrumental accompaniment (with no lead vocals) make sure that your CD or phone works. If you need to start in the middle of an accompaniment make sure you know the exact time in the accompaniment (if a CD) or have the song already cued up if you are using your phone.

5.) Keep your song time to 45-60 seconds.

If your song is too long you **WILL** be interrupted by the directors after 1 minute.

6.) Enter your audition with confidence.

We are looking for people who are able to perform. Your entrance into the audition room is where the judges develop their first impression of you. You must show confidence and comfort, whether you feel it or not. It can make or break your experience. If you don't believe in yourself, no one else will! Being confident will also help you sing more accurately because you believe you know what you're doing. Smile, relax and do your best. The directors are always rooting for you!

7.) Don't apologize or make excuses.

Never let the judges know that you are not confident or unprepared. If you are ill in a matter that affects your voice it will be obvious to the judges and that will be taken into consideration.

8.) Be professional: Dress well and keep your appearance neat.

Dress as you would at a job interview. Appearance is part of the first impression the judges develop. "Dress for success!" Brush your hair and practice good hygiene. Choirs involve a lot of people standing close to one another in a tight space so take a shower, don't wear heavily-scented perfume, etc.

9.) Be friendly.

Don't be overly talkative, but the directors would like to know that you are at ease and not difficult to work with. You will be spending several months together!

10.) Sing out and sing clearly!

The directors can only judge what they can hear. Please sing out at an appropriate volume so that you can be heard. Make sure your words can be understood as well. Remember, it always sounds less energized than you think, so make sure your diction and rounded vowels are on top form.

11.) Use facial expressions.

Facial expressions are a very important part of any type of performance. Show the judges that you understand what you are singing about and that you want to entertain an audience. Do your best to "deliver" when performing your song. Make eye contact, use facial expressions and gestures to emote as you sing. A vocal coach once asked, "Would you rather look stupid or sound stupid?" When in doubt just SMILE!

12.) Keep your hands out of your pockets.

Stand up straight – don't slouch- and relax your arms and hands.

13.) Turn off your cell phone, watch alarm, etc.

If you are using your phone to provide your accompaniment you may want to put it on “Do Not Disturb” so that your audition is not disrupted by any message alerts or phone calls.

14.) Keep going.

If you make a mistake while singing just keep going. Don't be afraid to look at the directors – we often know the songs and try to help you if we see you've forgotten words or gotten lost in the accompaniment.

15.) Fill out your audition form online BEFORE your audition.

Forms MUST be completed before you can be placed in a choir.

16.) Think about what the directors are looking for.

Tone quality and intonation, breath control, depth of range, pitch control, stage presence/style and total effect of the performance. In other words, do you have a clear sound or is it nasal? Do you sound breathy or do you have a lot of volume? Are you on pitch or above and below it (sharp or flat)? Do you look terrified or confident? Are you dressed like you want the “job” (a spot in the choir)? Did you give it your best effort?

17.) Be patient.

Unfortunately, since the number of people auditioning is unknown, there cannot be a definite time frame given for how long auditions will take. Rest assured that the judges are trying to work as efficiently and effectively as possible.

♪ **Don't be afraid to reach out to the directors, Mr. Adcock (badcock@warrick.k12.in.us) and Ms. Kinney (jkinney@warrick.k12.in.us), if you have any questions or concerns before your audition. We are 2/3 of the judging panel (joined by Rob DiComandrea, our choreographer) and we *all* want you to succeed! ♪**