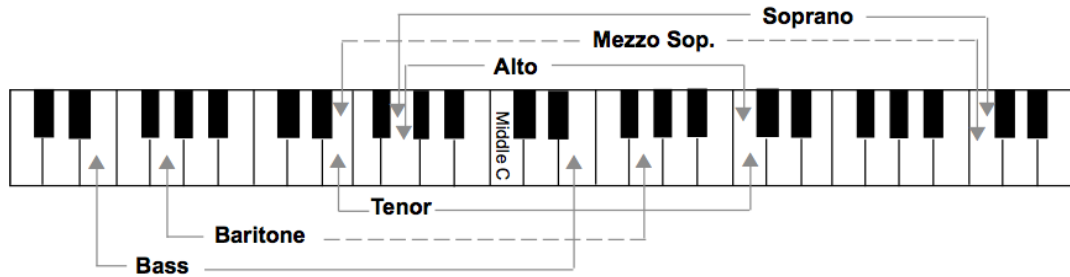
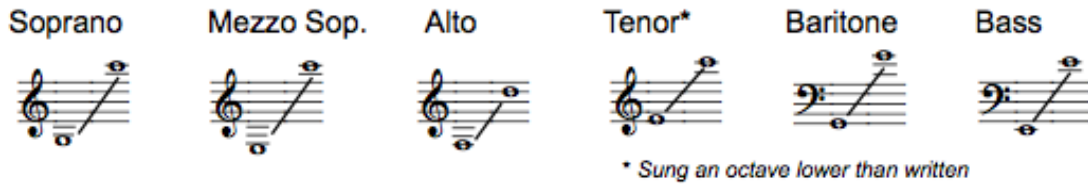


TIPS FOR MUSICAL THEATRE AUDITIONS

1. Know your vocal range:



2. Choose a song that fits your vocal range well, and memorize it

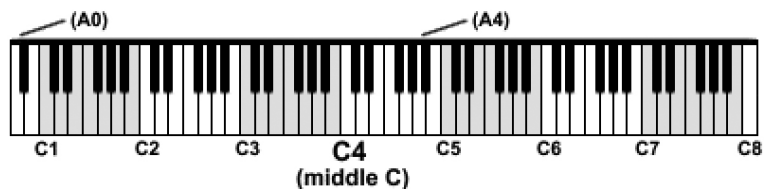
(note: Don't practice until you get it right; practice until you CAN'T get it wrong!)

- is the part you're auditioning for sparkly? Somber? Demur? Choose a song that conveys the EMOTION of the character you would like to play. Plan on singing :30 to 1 minute of the song

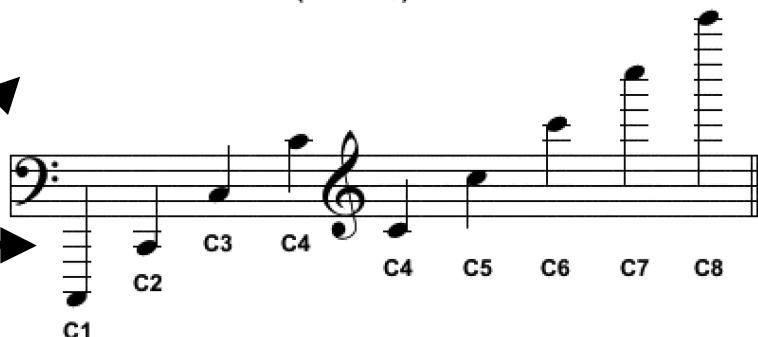
3. Get music to the song IN THE KEY that best fits your vocal range.

- Buy piano/ vocal/ guitar music to give to the accompanist at the audition. Musicnotes.com is an excellent resource for audition music, as you can choose different keys of most songs there. When viewing the sheet music, you can choose the key, and play it back (before buying it) to make sure it works well with your voice.

Octave Numbers on Piano



Vocal ranges are indicated by note name and which octave on the piano it is in. The chart on the right shows octave numbers on the piano keyboard and on the notated staff.



The graphic to the right shows how online digital sheet music vendors indicate what vocal ranges a song is in, in a given key. Printed music books usually have songs in the key as sung in the movie, or on a CD - so make sure that key works for you.

Song: Over the Rainbow:

Scoring: Piano/Vocal/Chords

Instrs: Piano

Voice, range: A3-C6

4. Find out PRIOR to the audition if the pianist sight-reads exclusively, or if they can play by ear, improvise, transpose, or play by chords or lead sheets (melody/ chords/ lyrics only).
- If a sight-reader, make sure you bring the printed music to the audition for the pianist, and mark out parts of the song that WON'T be played (to shorten it to less than a minute).
5. Ask PRIOR to the audition if you can bring your own accompanist (helpful if you have practiced a particular arrangement), or if a pre-recorded accompaniment is allowed.

The audition itself

1. Come prepared. Have your music ready to give to the pianist, and be ready to quickly go on stage to audition when your name is called.
2. Give the pianist your music, point out any important changes (e.g. end with big flourish, or repeat last line 3x, etc.), and head to center front stage.
3. Take a deep breath, plant your feet firmly on the ground, and make your energy 10 times bigger than you would in everyday life.
4. Breathing from your belly, say your name and the title of the song you will be singing.
5. Sing your song confidently (even if you have to pretend to be), and look out OVER the heads of the audience towards the back of the theatre. This makes it seem as if you're looking at them.
6. If you forget some words, keep going, or make a quick, funny look at the audience (as if you did it on purpose), then continue.
7. NOTE: Don't sing the song as YOU; sing it as the character who is singing the song. Envision details about the song/ character/ setting as if it were a mini-musical. Is it set in modern or olden times? Day? Night? Big City? Small town? Outdoors? Male? Female? What is the emotion/ point of view/ topic of the song? Always take a moment to explore the WHO WHAT WHERE WHY AND WHERE of the song before singing it. It is YOUR CHARACTER singing the song, not you (which takes a lot of pressure off -- so if you make a mistake, blame it on the character, not on you! 😊)

Other tips to increase your voice volume: Bend your knees, drop your jaw (floppy jaw); think British (sing as if you're yawning); stay on the vowels of each word as long as possible (vowels carry more sound); sing HORIZONTALLY (back and forth), rather than thinking up and down. This tricks your body into thinking you are NOT reaching for a high note. When about to sing a high note, drop one or both arms (this keeps your voice relaxed and open.) When singing a low note, raise an arm up slightly (this helps your body feel you are lifting, rather than falling, to the note). EMBODY the style of the song.

Presentation: *A performer's impact is 55% face (appearance/ enthusiasm), 38% voice quality and 7% words.* In other words, PRESENTATION is more crucial than what you say or your vocal quality! So go for it with GUSTO!*

- based on a study cited in Voice Power by Joan Kenley