



Vocal and Instrumental Auditions 101

While *The Taming of the Shrew* is not a musical, there will be some added music. Not all actors will need to sing or play an instrument. Vocal and instrumental auditions are optional for this show. Should you wish to audition as a vocalist or musician for our production (or any other production), please read below for tips on how to look like a pro!

Overview

For any vocal and instrumental audition, we suggest you start building a collection of pieces so that when an audition comes, you can just pull out a piece that you have already prepared. This sheet tells you all you need to know for building that library of audition pieces.

Begin building your three-ring binder of audition pieces.

Get a three-ring binder and begin collecting sheet music of material you'd like to work on or have already worked on and would like to keep in your repertoire. Divide it into sections. For instance: for vocal auditions you could have sections for sixteen bar up tempo, sixteen-bar ballads, etc. For *The Taming of the Shrew* we will be looking for a range of vocal talent – great voices, character voices, voices that might be good at harmonizing. For instruments, we are looking for percussion, violin, recorder/flute and guitar proficiently.

Every song is divided into measures.

In most auditions, directors will want to hear sixteen or thirty-two bars of a song instead of the full piece. This allows the director to get a glimpse of what the vocalist can do while still accounting for time. *A director will only need to hear sixteen-thirty-two bars to get a good idea of your level of experience and talent.*

Performing at a moment's notice.

For those that are serious about auditioning for musicals, being prepared with more than one piece shows it. Sometimes a director will ask for the binder, root through it, and request something out of it directly. Sometimes a director might want to hear something of your own choosing. For the *Taming* audition, we realize you might not have more than once piece at this time. If you do, then have it ready in your binder. If not, don't worry about it.

How to cut your sixteen bars of music:

- For a brief video tutorial check out [this video!](#)
- All music should be cut to your sixteen bars and marked ahead of time.
 - For singers, an accompanist (if available) should never have to remember tempos, details, and where to start/finish the song. *(You will need an MP3 track and a player to accompany your song at the Taming audition as we won't have a pianist available).*
- For singers, never, never, never sing 'a capella'.
 - A capella means without music. It is important for the director to hear how you





interpret music that is playing. Can you match pitch? Can you stay on tempo? Always have a track or sheet music with you for an audition unless otherwise specified. Resources

- www.musicnotes.com is an excellent resource for online music.
- With <http://www.karaoke-version.com> you can build your own karaoke track in your own key.
- www.youtube.com has tons of karaoke and instrumental tracks.
- For editing a track, we cannot recommend <http://www.extreamsd.com> enough. To find the app in your app store, check out [Audio Evolution!](#)

FAQ's

For Vocalists:

Can I sing a capella if I forgot my music? Nope.

Should I pick something belty? High ranged?

Pick the piece of the song that shows you at your best!

If I'm using a track, do I need to cut it to sixteen bars ahead of time?

It depends on the track. If you're starting at the beginning, then no. We will stop the track or you can chop it down so it ends where you want it to. But if you're starting somewhere else in the song, then yes. It would be better to chop it down to size ahead of time.

What if I find a great song but I the key is too low/high?

The music should be in the correct key on the day of the audition. Use our resources above to adjust. If it still isn't working, try a different piece.

The accompanist messed up! What do I do?

Keep singing! The director will know what happened, and they will love the fact that you stayed on target. Remember, an audition is not about being "perfect", it's just about showcasing what you do best!

For Vocalists and Musicians:

Can I sing or play something from the show?

It's a good idea not to sing music from the show unless it's requested. The director has a vision of what they want. If you sing a song from the show in a different way, it might hurt your chances of getting cast. *(Note that for Taming, the music hasn't been picked yet – this is an 'in general' note for future musical auditions so you don't need to worry about it.)*

Should I start at the beginning of the song?





Not necessarily. The best sixteen-bar cuts generally include a “beginning, middle, and end”, and fully shows off the voice or musician in the shortest amount of time. Typically, that's found at the halfway or past the halfway point of the song.

What style of music should I pick?

That depends on what you are auditioning for. If you're looking to get cast in the operetta “Pirates of Penzance”, you probably wouldn't want to sing something in an R&B or funk style. For *Taming*, since the music hasn't been picked yet, just come in with your best piece. You may be giving the director ideas for what to use for the show!

Still have questions? Shoot us an email!

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