

# Helpful Tips & Hints for a Successful Vocal Audition

If using sheet music, how should I prepare my music?

- **Buy/Download** – Resources for sheet music: [MusicNotes.com](http://MusicNotes.com), [scribd.com](http://scribd.com), [sheetmusicplus.com](http://sheetmusicplus.com), public library, or voice/music teacher. Make sure sheet music is in an appropriate key. Tailor the song to your range, don't try to sing the range of the original singer if it's too high or low.
- **Three Ring Binder** – Your sheet music should be a three ring binder, strongly recommended with circular rings. It doesn't have to be a big binder, but please make sure it is sturdy and not flimsy plastic.
- **Non - Glare Sheet Protectors** – Sheet Music should be in “Non - Glare” sheet protectors, avoid “Clear” or “Diamond” as they will cause much glare with any type of lighting. Also, keep clear of “Light Weight” as they can be very low quality.
- **Accordion Style** – You may opt to not use a binder and only have the sheet music you plan on using. If so, please photo copy the music on card-stock paper, single sided, and preferably taped together on the back of the music in order to not block any of the music on the front. This style is called “Accordion” style, and the card-stock paper will prevent the pages from curling when placed on the music stand.
- **Clearly Label** – All music should be clearly labeled, and markings need to be very clear on the music itself. Clearly mark where to “Start” & where to “Stop”.

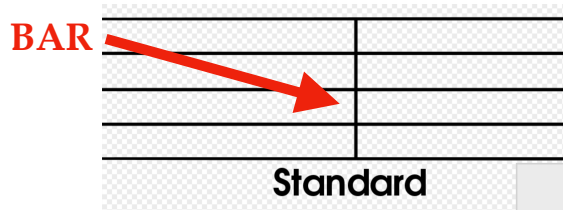


If using a track, what should my music consist of?

- **Buy/Download** – Resources for tracks: [www.karaoke-version.com](http://www.karaoke-version.com), iTunes, or Spotify. Make sure the track is in an appropriate key. Tailor the song to your range, don't try to sing the range of the original singer if it's too high or low.
- **Karaoke Only** – Your track must not have a lead vocalist on it. Back up vocals are ok, but no lead vocals. The music director needs/wants to hear your voice, and not the session/original singer.
- **Download, Don't Rely on Wifi** – Music should be downloaded, don't rely on wifi. Wifi is unreliable and takes time away from audition time.
- **Have it cue'd or clearly explain where to start from** – Make sure your music is cue'd to the correct starting time or inform the monitor, assisting with pushing play, what time are you starting the music. (ex: I will be starting at a minute & 37 seconds into the track)

## Audition Cut Translation

- Bars are the lines going vertical against the five lines going horizontal. Example:



- If the audition notice states "30 seconds" = roughly 16 bars
  - If the audition notice states "One (1) minute" = roughly 32 bars
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## What Song(s) Should I Prepare To Sing?

- **Familiarize** – It is your job as an actor to familiarize yourself enough with the show you are auditioning for, in order to sing a piece that is appropriate in both content and style. This does not mean listen to two of the leads' songs and think that is the show. Directors, and Music Directors, are often frustrated by auditions where the actor chooses to do a piece in a style that is not helpful for seeing them as a possible option for the show.
- **Have Two Options** – While the number of songs in each style you should have in your book is a debatable issue, having two pieces usually keeps you in a safe range for auditions. You never want to be the actor that doesn't have anything the director is interested in hearing. This is also a reason to keep your book organized, as you may need to pull something out very quickly in an audition setting.
- **Your Best Material** – Your sheet music/track needs to be your best current material. Best, being the key word, as you could be asked to sing any piece that you bring with you into the audition room.
- **Cover All of Your Bases** – Your sheet music/track needs to be comprehensive enough to cover all the bases. If a director isn't hearing exactly what they need from you, it is common for them to ask what else you have brought.
- **Always Be Prepared** – Audition cuts are generally 32 bars or 16 bars, sometime 8 bars, and having cut options within each song will allow a selection to be more prepared for any allotted amount of time.
- **Find What Works Fits You** – As an actor, the content of your sheet music/track is up to you. Finding the cuts that fit your personality and type will be one of the most difficult things you have to do, but once you find something you will know that it feels like a fit.