

The Audition Itself

Once you have arrived at the venue, check in with the organiser immediately. Find out approximately how long it will be before you are required to perform

During the audition

1. *Your vocal range will be assessed*, to assess which part will be most suitable.
2. *You will need to learn the melody to the Star Spangled Banner* in one of the following keys:

Part 1 (tenor, **female only**) in Bmaj, start note F# above middle C or;

Part 2/3 (**lead/baritone male and female**) in Fmaj, start note middle C or;

Part 4. (**Bass, male only**) in Gmaj below middle C start note D below middle C.

'Auditionees' may not need to sing the whole thing but be prepared to. If you can't complete in these keys or need to change the key that is fine and this doesn't mean a fail. During this song your resonance, clarity, breathing, pitch/accuracy and constriction will be assessed.

3. *You will be asked to harmonise with a known melody*. Your natural ability to harmonise will be assessed. Harmony can be anything that is not the melody, however good harmony is something that is pleasant on the musical ear. Main thing is don't stop! You can miss notes or make mistakes this is an assessment of skill, not a test

4. *You will be asked to 'repeat clap' some rhythms*, to assess your rhythmic ability.

5. *You will be asked to identify (by singing) some notes*, to assess your aural ability in identifying notes in a played chord, e.g. a chord is played and you may be asked to sing the highest note of the chord.

6. *In the multiple audition situation* (many singers one by one, in one day), you will be informed in writing within 48 hours if you were successful and which part you will be asked to sing. The balance of voices within the voice parts is crucial to the musical director, so some consideration is needed when assessing the mix of voices in a multiple audition situation.

Re-auditioning (already a member) and single auditions (one off audition). You will be informed how you did at the end of the audition

We hope this helps you relax and enjoy the process with greater confidence, as we really want you to do your best!

Jim Catt

Artistic and Musical Director



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SVP Audition Tips

1. Looking Confident? There are ways of appearing confident, even if you feel like a bag of nerves!

- Do a few relaxation exercises before you are required. Take a couple of deep breaths and exhale slowly when you are called, to calm yourself before proceeding into the audition room
- Walk gracefully or stride across the room/stage with purpose, keep your head up and look where you are going!
- Wear clothing that is comfortable and enhances your confidence in yourself
- Face forwards and look at (or slightly above) the audience/judges/examiners
- Concentrate on the music and your performance, see yourself singing brilliantly
- Don't fluster or stop if you make a mistake, continue as if nothing happened
- Be Yourself and smile!

2. Be Prepared. The day before your audition should be spent preparing everything you need for the day. Pack all the items you intend to take with you, including a large bottle of water, pre-filled membership application form, some sustenance, audition fee (\$10) and something to read while you wait. ALWAYS check that you have everything you need before you leave the house.

3. Be In Good Voice. If you haven't sung in a while, you can't expect to go into an audition and perform well. Singing every day (or very close to it) is essential for keeping your voice healthy and strong.

If you're so sick you have a fever, or can hardly sing, don't put yourself (and everyone else!) through an audition. If you just have a cold or allergies, you may decide to audition anyway. You may tell the director ONCE that you are sick...but only once! Don't tell everyone! Just tell the director before you sing...ONCE! Don't use your sickness as an excuse...it gets old really fast.

4. Turn Off Your Cell Phone, Pager, Watch Alarm, etc...

5. Prepare Your Audition Material. Always give yourself plenty of time to learn your audition material; a week or a few days just won't cut it. Rehearse! If you make a mistake while singing, do not stop! An audition is like a performance; just keep ploughing ahead, and do not let your face or body language reveal the fact that you've made a mistake.

Do not hold sheet music. If you have to a word sheet is OK, although you may not perform your best holding anything. Record yourself singing the song long before the audition; you will be able to critique yourself in the first instance. Be aware that you hear yourself differently than others (others generally hear you better!).

6. Know The Song. In music, there's no excuse for not being familiar with audition piece. Remember that the better you know it, the better you'll audition. If there's an available soundtrack or you tube of an audition piece, watch it. It will give you a basic idea of what the song is all about. Explore the emotional journey of the song and try to express this when you perform.



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SVP Audition Tips

7. Enter With Confidence. Believe it or not, the way you walk on stage can either make a great impression on the director, or a very bad one. Keep good posture (shoulders back!), your chin at a natural level, don't stare at the floor. Walk with confidence, even when you're terrified.

8. Don't Apologise. This goes along with having confidence. Never tell them you are not in good voice today, etc., etc., because what that really tells them is that you don't care enough about your craft; to prepare properly.

9. Dress Well. Dress comfortably. Don't wear uncomfortable shoes, or something that's too tight; that's the last thing you need when you're already nervous.

10. Be Friendly. You don't want to be overly talkative (auditions take a long time, and everyone wants to be done as soon as possible), but you shouldn't be antisocial either. Smile and be personable. The Director wants to know he'll be spending the next few months (or weeks or months) with people that are easy to get along with. Although you want to be friendly with the other 'auditionees', avoid conversation in the auditioning room and don't get so engrossed in chit-chat that you end up having no time to centre yourself and concentrate before you audition.

11. "Sing Out." When you sing, just stand there and sing. Never do choreography, don't wander around. Use hand and arm movements only if they are natural. This is no time to be shy, so sing out, as if you were giving a performance and, just like a performance, don't forget to feel your song.

Good acting is vital to good singing.

12. Keep Your Hands Out Of Your Pockets, loosely by your side

13. Be Flexible. Don't complain or make apologies; just try to do your best when the director asks something of you. If you're asked to sing the same song with a different attitude, take just a moment to consider how you'll do this and then go for it.

14. Be Patient, auditions are, sometimes a long process.

15. Don't Be Afraid To Ask Questions, but please be mindful of the time restraints and other auditionees. Please also make sure you have carefully read all the information sent to you by SVP before auditioning.

At the end of the day you may not get chosen for our project. Don't be disheartened by this. In all cases the musical director is looking for a certain 'sound' which he/she feels they will know when they hear it. Just because you are not what they are seeking for this project, does not mean that you will not be chosen at another audition by the same director.

Good luck. We hope this information assists you in singing your best!

Jim Catt – SVP Music and Artistic Director