



## 2023-2024 Ensign-Darling New Voices Audition Requirements

### RESUME AND HEADSHOT:

For the audition, please bring a) a **single page resume** and b) an **8X10 headshot** stapled together on 4 corners front and back. (There is no need to get professionally taken headshots for this audition – using a school photo and/ or photo taken from the shoulders up is welcome.

### VOCAL SELECTIONS:

Singers should be prepared to offer the audition panel **THREE** contrasting vocal selections - along with sheet music (see additional requirements below) - from the following categories:

- **ONE** classic/traditional musical theatre song or cabaret song from the Golden Age/Great American songbook
- **ONE** contemporary musical theatre/contemporary commercial song (ie CCM, pop, rock, R&B, jazz, gospel, song not from a musical, etc)
- **ONE** classical art song or operatic aria. (This selection may be in Italian, German, French, Spanish, or English. Please be familiar with the translation of any song text which may be outside of your native language.)

All song selections **MUST** be **FULLY MEMORIZED** and sung **WITH** accompaniment. A piano accompanist **WILL** be provided. Instrumental tracks will **NOT** be accepted.

A sight singing and ear training portion of the audition may be requested in the room as time permits.

**Optional:** Singer/Songwriters/Instrumentalists are encouraged to offer **ONE** original song in addition to the 3 selections above and may accompany themselves accordingly. A piano is provided for your use as needed. Additional instruments (ie Guitar, Ukelele, etc) are welcome, but not provided.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Preparing full songs and/or audition cuts is welcome. **Regardless of song length, singers may be asked to sing from the beginning, middle, or end of the piece in the audition room.**

Very often, the audition panel can hear what they need in the first 15-30 seconds of listening and watching your piece, and may want to see what else you have prepared. Therefore, those auditioning may be asked to sing only portions of song selections as needed. Remaining flexible and open in the audition room is greatly appreciated. **A sight singing and ear training portion of the audition may be requested in the room as time permits.**

Our goal is to get to know **YOU** and your voice as well as possible in a short amount of time. We are especially interested in observing your vocal

style, accuracy, ability, range, musicality, articulation, characterization, point of view, openness, receptiveness to direction, and especially, STORYTELLING!

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**AUDITION TIP:** When selecting repertoire, choose songs which you connect with, as well as songs that showcase your strengths and vocal abilities right off the bat! Sometimes simple is best. You are encouraged to choose songs which are age and vocally appropriate, as well as relatable to where you're at in life TODAY. Focus on sharing who you ARE and not a "type" or who you think we want you to be.

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## **SHEET MUSIC REQUIREMENTS**

PRINTED SHEET MUSIC is required and must be organized in a 3-ring binder with pages 3-hole punched, taped/printed front to back (like a book) or in clear page protectors, for easy page turns. Music books are discouraged and absolutely NO loose-leaf pages will be accepted. Please make sure your music is clearly marked with a START and END (especially when offering an audition cut), along with any specific details the accompanist should observe. Whenever possible, skip long intros or interludes and cut right to the singing. Please NO acapella singing, unless specifically asked in the room.

**REMINDER:** TRIPLE CHECK THAT YOUR SHEET MUSIC IS IN THE CORRECT KEY AND THAT THE ARRANGEMENT IS WHAT YOU HAVE

PRACTICED AND PREPARED. No chord charts or tabs will be accepted by the accompanist. Often times practicing with instrumental/karaoke tracks can sound vastly different from piano/vocal accompaniment versions - set yourself up for success by considering these details well in advance. If you are unsure that your sheet music is in the proper key, check with a voice teacher, music director, or choir director for additional guidance prior to auditioning.

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### **ADDITIONAL SKILLS:**

We are interested in seeing innovative and unique ways of expressing yourself in your audition! You are encouraged to share special talents which elevate your storytelling (i.e. dance, gymnastics, playing instruments, spoken word, ASL, poetry, monologues, stand-up comedy, original work and compositions, puppetry, visual arts, media arts, and/or any other imaginative ideas you may have).

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### **Remember to breathe and have fun!**

**We recognize that asking an artist to audition is to ask for their time, their space and their energy - which is no small ask. We thank you for sharing these things with us always.**

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