

2020 Requirements

VOICE

Please be sure you follow all requirements related to your application. Failure to comply with any of the requirements listed below may result in disqualification during the review process and/or make your application ineligible for an award.

Classical

Application Requirements

- All audition selections must be performed from memory, without sheet music.
- Selections should display sensitivity to vocal weight.
- Selections offered should be in contrasting styles and varied tempi showing the character and quality of your voice and musicianship.
- For *da capo* selections (ABA), the *da capo* must be ornamented.

For your audition, submit a **total of four (4) individual digital video recordings** to include the following and in the following order:

- **One (1) art song in English from any time period.** No musical theater or operatic repertoire allowed for this selection. Composition should be originally written for voice and piano.
- **One (1) art song in a language other than English.**
- **A song or aria selection of your choice.** This selection may be from the Golden Age of opera, operetta, standard, or legit musical theater repertoire (e.g. Rodgers & Hammerstein, Sondheim, Bernstein, and Gilbert & Sullivan among others).
- **One (1) art song or aria in Italian from any period.**

NOTE: If selected as a Finalist, you will be required to perform your submitted materials live for the panel during YoungArts Week.

Accompaniment Requirements

- Record your audition with live piano accompaniment. Do not use pre-recorded accompaniment.
- Make sure the level of your piano accompaniment does not overpower the sound of your voice in the recording.
- Any lengthy piano introductions should be abridged.

Guidelines for Recording Your Audition

- Dress appropriately as you would for a live audition. Please refrain from wearing excessive jewelry.
- Use a fixed point of view for your camera. Shoot straight on, leaving the camera in one location.
- Please be sure your image is clear. The panel must be able to see your facial expressions to properly adjudicate your work.
- Ensure recording captures good quality image.

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- Ensure recording equipment has the ability to capture good sound quality. Check for good balance and blend.
- No sound enhancements are allowed.
- No music stands or sheet music.

Before recording your pieces, film a test. Perform the first few lines of one of your selections, then watch and listen to it on playback. Check the following important things:

- **Sound:** Make sure the acoustics in the room are suitable for a recording. Practice your piece in the space. Please ensure the balance between piano and voice is appropriate.
- **Lighting:** Make sure the space is well-lit, but not too bright. Judges should be able to see your face clearly. Too little light and judges cannot see you. Too much light will leave you overexposed and judges cannot see your expressions.
- **Framing:** The camera should be set at a distance to frame your face and body clearly. If judges only see your face and shoulders, it's too close. If judges can see the entire stage but your facial expressions cannot be seen clearly, it's too far away.

Media Submission Requirements

- When uploading, verify that image is upright (not sideways) and plays smoothly.
- Save and name your files individually with their titles.
- Upload each selection as a separate video file.
- Do not put your name or any identifying information in or on your media submission.
- Please do not do any of the following as it may disqualify you:
 - Do not edit within a piece.
 - Do not use special effects, dissolves, fades or wipes.
 - Do not submit pre-recorded live performances, such as recitals, concerts, or competitions.

Reviewers and Panel are looking for:

- Tone Production - the ability to achieve a quality of sound appropriate to the type of voice and to the style of the music.
- Technique - the degree to which the performer has acquired control of the voice.
- Diction - accurate pronunciation and clear articulation.
- Intonation - singing in tune.
- Interpretation - the ability to accurately express the piece performed with a clear understanding of its meaning.
- Phrasing - sensitivity to the need for phrasing and the ability to execute it.
- Accuracy – the ability to accurately perform correct notes and rhythms.

Note: If your work has been submitted to other competitions, you are responsible for getting permission to submit to YoungArts.