

YoungArts 2024 Application Requirements

Voice: Popular (Pop)

Please be sure you follow all requirements related to your application. Failure to comply with any of the requirements listed below may make your application ineligible for an award.

Popular (Pop) Application Requirements

- Submit selections in contrasting styles, such as a mixture of up-tempo and ballads, i.e. not all blues, not all R&B, not all power ballads, etc. Musical Theater repertoire is not accepted for popular voice. Avoid songs that carry a strong imprint of the original singer.
- All audition submissions must be performed from memory, without sheet music.
- Please sing through the full form of the song (i.e., verse, chorus, bridge, verse...etc.), eliminating overly long intros and excessive repetition of choruses.

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

- **One (1) ballad selection in any style you choose** (pop, rock, R&B, gospel, folk, country, alternative, etc.).
- **One (1) up tempo selection in any style you choose** (pop, rock, R&B, gospel, folk, country, alternative, etc.).
- **One (1) popular song written between 1950-1979.** Please do not include Great American Songwriting.
- **One (1) contemporary popular song written in 1980 or after.**

*If you'd like to submit selections in another language you may do so, but please limit it to no more than two (2) selections.

Note: If selected as a Finalist, you will be required to perform your submitted materials live for the panel during YoungArts Week, in addition to pieces not part of the application.

Accompaniment Requirements

- Do NOT perform songs *a capella*. *A capella* pieces are not allowed.
- Live accompaniment is preferred and limited to one piano (also preferred) or guitar.
- Only a pre-recorded format without background vocals is permitted if live accompaniment is not available to you.
- The panel does not recommend that an applicant accompany themselves unless they are a strong instrumentalist. However, you may do so while keeping in mind that the vocals are what is being adjudicated.
- Make sure the level of your accompaniment does not overpower the sound of your voice in the recording.

Guidelines for Recording Your Audition

- Dress appropriately for your audition.
- Ensure recording captures good quality image.
- Ensure recording equipment has the ability to capture good sound quality. Check for good balance and blend.
- Microphones are permitted as long as the windscreen is removed, and the judges can see your face clearly.
- Leave the camera in one location. Shoot the vocalist straight on.
- Do not pan, move the camera or follow the vocalist.
- Camera image may be no closer than waist up.
- No sound enhancements are allowed. (i.e. reverb)
- 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.

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