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## **Important Senior SYMS Vocalist Information:**

Please read through the entire document.

We have provided this information so you can be prepared for SYMS and have the best experience possible. If you have further questions, feel free to contact [jenni.cook@unh.edu](mailto:jenni.cook@unh.edu). We look forward to seeing you and hope your experience will be fun and rewarding.

Auditions are challenging, but they will always be part of your life as a musician. Remember that we are only trying to make the best possible placements and part assignments for you. You can help us by being well prepared in advance.

Suggestions: Get to the warm-up room several minutes before your audition. Prepare yourself physically and mentally to do your best. Introduce yourself as you enter the room. Try not to let nervousness bother you. Almost everyone gets nervous, and the judges will do their best to put you at ease and to place you properly into an ensemble.

### **Audition Requirements:**

- **Mixed Chorus and Women's Chorus:** These are open to all who are interested and require NO audition. You will sign up for these groups on Monday evening.
- **Select Choir:** For consideration you will have a range check for your voice part and sing 16 measures of an appropriate prepared piece of your choice, preferably classical. You will then do some sight-reading consisting of key signature identification and correctly performed rhythms and pitches of an excerpt.
- **Jazz Choir:** Prepare one jazz standard tune and *bring the sheet music to the audition.*
- **Musical Theater :** Have 16 measures from each of two contrasting musical theater selections, *and bring the sheet music to the audition.*
- **Student Recitals:** If you would like to be considered for the Honors/Scholarship or Friday morning recital you **must bring a prepared piece that is memorized and performance ready** with you to SYMS that you will audition for during your voice master class or at the end of the first week of camp; the exact date and time TBA.

Repertoire for the **Honors/Scholarship Recital** must be classical. This also includes folk songs. You must be ready to sing your piece during the pre-screening audition to be held at the end of the first week of camp. The honors/scholarship audition is very selective; only a few campers total perform on the honors/scholarship recital. Guidelines for the scholarship competition audition can be found using this [link](#). Repertoire from the following books can serve as guidelines:

- Royal Conservatory Resonance series (levels 2-4);
- 26 Italian Songs and Arias (Paton edition)
- First Book series by Joan Boytim\*;
- Standard Vocal Literature\* Arr. By Richard Walters

\*Available in Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor, and Bass voice types. Some of these anthologies are available on Amazon.com, but are also available on [www.halleonard.com](http://www.halleonard.com) and [www.sheetmusicplus.com](http://www.sheetmusicplus.com).

**Final Friday morning recital:** Repertoire for this recital can be classical, musical theater of any era, folk song arrangements, or jazz/rock/country/pop/indie. **You must have your music fully memorized and polished at your audition in order to qualify for the recital.** Please choose a song that is two to five minutes in length so we can accommodate as many as possible that wish to sing. Most singers will use the SYMS pianist for accompaniment, but if you would like to accompany yourself on piano or acoustic guitar (no bands) your playing must be well rehearsed and will be part of your audition. This recital is for solo voice only with accompaniment; there are no group numbers or *a cappella* singing on this recital (these are reserved for the Choruses).

You can use the following books as guidelines for choosing music: Royal Conservatory Resonance series (preparatory-level 4); 26 Italian Songs and Arias (Paton edition); First Book series by Joan Boytim; Singer's Musical Theatre Anthology; Folk Songs/Spirituals for Solo Singers (Alfred publishing); 15 Easy Folk Song/Spiritual Arrangements (Hal Leonard publishing); single downloads of musical theater songs or contemporary music from [www.musicnotes.com](http://www.musicnotes.com).\*

\*Any of the books mentioned here can be ordered from [www.sheetmusicplus.com](http://www.sheetmusicplus.com). To find these exact editions on the site, type in the book title and author/edition as it is given above. Your teacher can help you if you are unsure.

#### **Attire for recitals at SYMS:**

Men: Shirt and tie, dress pants and dress shoes. Polo shirts and khakis are acceptable.

Women: Skirt or dress to the knee or slightly above (please be modest; if your skirt is very short consider tights or a different outfit), dress shoes, no strapless tops, no undergarments showing.

**Voice Master Class:** Voice majors participate in a voice master class each morning at SYMS. In this class you will learn about vocal technique, perform a solo for the class, and work on topics like dramatic presentation, breathing, tone quality, diction, and range, among others. Please bring your solo vocal sheet music with you so that you can use it in your master class. A pianist will be available to accompany you. You can decide before camp what song or songs you would like to sing for master class. If possible, your song should be fully memorized. Songs of any style are acceptable, and you may accompany yourself, sing *a cappella*, or use the accompanist we provide for you.

#### **Optional private lessons:**

When you register for camp, you can choose to sign up for a maximum of two private voice lessons to be given to you by your master class teacher during free time. The lesson is a good time to work on solos for camp, or just learn more about your own voice and vocal technique. It is a good compliment to the work you do in the master class. Bring music to your lesson and come prepared with questions so that you can make the most of your time.

