

Regional Honors Choir AUDITION – Practice Techniques & Tips

Students are required to do the following – 1) Sing a classical solo and 2) Complete several sight-reading passages

Preparing your classical solo:

1. Speak through the words slowly and then gain speed and rhythmic accuracy
2. Listen to recordings to check for pronunciation accuracy
3. Listen to the accompaniment on repeat and sing through your song in your head and NOT out loud
4. Listen to the accompaniment on repeat and sing through your song out loud
5. Write down the lyrics without looking at your song
6. Practice it **memorized** while picturing yourself in the audition room with only one adjudicator sitting across from you
7. **Practice it while picturing yourself singing it INCREDIBLY WELL!**
8. **Finally, practice it in the mirror and watch your singing posture, your breathing, and check to make sure your facial expressions are engaged and reflecting the words in the music (even if it's in another language!)**

Preparing for the sight-reading:

1. **Go to this site and practice, practice, practice!!**
<http://www.azchoraleducators.org/festivals/sight-reading-downloads>
2. Listen to the recording for your respective part while looking at the PDF provided. This will be exactly how your sight-reading audition will go.
3. Brush up on your minor tonalities – **know what a minor scale and triad sound like compared to a major scale – see Ms. Newton or a student who has been to Regionals in the past for help**
4. Practice 6/8 key signature – counting and the overall feel of 1-2-3-4-5-6
5. Practice identifying key signatures and time signatures
6. How to find key signature?
 - a. Sharps (3): Go to last sharp (farthest to the right) and go up a half step
 - b. Flats (b): Go to the second to last flat and stay there
 - c. The key you are in will tell you where “Do” is – you will almost always start on “Do”
 - d. If your passage does not start on “Do,” it is probably a minor scale!
7. **The hardest part is the Block and Contrapuntal Section**
 - a. Make a plan of attack – Identify any patterns that you can, know when your voice should be going up and down, look VERTICALLY to see how your voice part fits in with the other parts that you will hear
 - b. Know that you will have 2 chances to do this – The key is to remain as relaxed and confident as you can possibly be
8. In general, practice your confidence and ability to KEEP GOING even if you get off key temporarily
9. Also, if you get off using solfege, finish the passage on a neutral syllable like “la,” “da,” or “loo”