

## Preparing for your audition: Music Theatre



Preparing your audition for entry to a music theatre course can often be a daunting experience. Many people feel quite isolated during the preparation. Let me give you a few tips:

1. Preparation is everything. People who arrive without the correct material or who haven't memorised their songs and monologue send a poor message to the panel. After all, how much do you want this? Prepared people send a clear message that they are serious. Those are the students we want. Entry is competitive – take it seriously and we will take you seriously.
2. Prepare **TWO contrasting songs** from **music theatre repertoire**, one up-tempo and one ballad. One of the songs should have been written before 1965. Both songs must be memorised and performed with piano accompaniment. You may only be required to sing one song and a part of the second. Just go with whatever is asked of you.
3. Find songs that are appropriate for your age and type of voice. Select a song that shows us what you can do rather than highlighting what you haven't yet mastered. Pieces that are out of your range or not for your voice type will not show you at your best. Here are a few tips:
  - a) The difficulty of the piece is irrelevant. We want to hear the quality of your voice and know that you are musical. We want to see that you understand the importance of text and that you engage us with the story of your piece. Technique is taught during the course. Show us that you are a performer.

- b) Ensure that you have a copy of your music for the accompanist. If you are using a book or a folder, make sure it will lay flat and that pages remain still. Remember, these things may seem trivial, but it is important to remove any potential obstacles or problems.
  - c) Ensure your sheet music is in the key you will be singing. Work with an accompanist who isn't your regular person. It will help you determine if you need to be clearer with your instructions. Don't bring in a lead sheet (the melody with just chords). Bring in the entire piece with a full piano accompaniment. Almost every musical theatre song is readily available on [musicnotes.com](http://musicnotes.com)
  - d) Know the piano accompaniment.
  - e) We will not allow you to use any electronically generated accompaniment. We will provide a professional accompanist. When you enter the room, you will have some time to establish the tempo of your piece and highlight any issues for the accompanist to note.
  - f) Know the tempo (speed) of your song. Sing the first few lines for the accompanist.
  - g) It is advisable to know your vocal range as you may be asked. If you say you can sing a top C, the panel will likely ask to hear it.
4. Prepare ONE monologue. It doesn't matter if you have limited experience doing this, just select something that suits you and you can relate to and understand. Be sure to learn it thoroughly. Read the whole play that the monologue comes from. Don't try to 'act', just tell us the story. It's more interesting being natural.
  5. Finally, we may ask you some questions to get to know you. Remember, we are looking for fun, interesting, intelligent people. We are not trying to trap you or catch you out. We just want to know you.
  6. Don't **EVER** make excuses for your health, preparation or anything. Just do your best.
  7. If you get through to the CALLBACK it means you are one step closer. The CALLBACK is a chance for us to compare candidates and for you to experience work in movement, voice and acting. On the day wear movement gear or comfortable clothing so we can see your body at work. You will get to see our wonderful facilities, meet other lecturers and current students.
  8. If you are not an experienced dancer – don't panic! We just want to see what you can do. Dance skills are taught as part of the course. We are more interested in your attitude and to see you move.
  9. Likewise, there is no need to panic if you have had no experience in music theory or musicianship. We just want to know your current skill level.

Remember, we were once where you are now and we understand what you are feeling. Believe in yourself, prepare and give it a go. Adelaide is a wonderful place and we would love to see you here!