

CYT Atlanta Audition Process

We are so excited that you have decided to audition for CYT Atlanta. Auditions can seem like a mystery to many new and returning students. This page is designed to help you navigate CYT auditions easily and successfully.

Some encouragement before you begin:

It is CYT's mission to make auditions painless and encouraging, so that your student can give their best performance. Remember that the artistic team and staff are rooting for every student who auditions. We have all been on both sides of the audition process and understand the nerves and emotions that accompany it. Don't think of the artistic team as a group of judges looking for you to mess up, but as cheerleaders urging you to succeed. We love it when casting is difficult because that means that all our students gave amazing auditions. THE ARTISTIC TEAM IS LOOKING FOR POTENTIAL, NOT PERFECTION!

CLASS REQUIREMENT and PRODUCTION FEE

CLASS REQUIREMENT: As part of CYT's mission to provide excellent theatrical education, we require all students be enrolled in a CYT class in order to be eligible to audition for a show. We currently have classes available at Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church, King's Ridge Christian School, and online. Please register for a class at www.cyatatlanta.com before you ask for an audition slot.

PRODUCTION FEE: If your student is cast in the production, you will be required to pay a Production Fee of \$200 if cast. This fee covers the following expenses: Costumes, Props, Sets, Rehearsal Training, Facility Rentals, Artistic Team Pay, and More!

VOLUNTEER HOURS: Theater is a collaborative art, and we rely on the hard work of amazing parent volunteers to help make our productions great. Each family is required to fulfill 20 hours of volunteer time on a Production Committee. You may put your committee preference on the Audition Form.

VOCAL AUDITIONS

Students will have vocal auditions on Friday night. You must email and request an audition slot at info@cytatlanta.com prior to the audition. Vocal Auditions are open, meaning that everyone is welcome to view auditions. Students will receive a number and be lined up in the room in groups of 10-15 students. Then students will be called up one by one to present their audition. Students should dress nicely and present themselves well at the vocal audition (and call-back, if they are called back for Saturday afternoon).

SLATE: Students are asked to present a slate before their audition. This is a short introduction of the student and their song. Follow this template: Hi! My name is (student's name), I am ____ years old, and I will be singing (insert audition song).

AUDITION SONG: Each student needs to have a 60 second musical theater song prepared for their audition. This song must be sung with an instrumental track loaded onto a CD or iPod/iPhone. Please do not use a YouTube video or non-downloaded song as we cannot guarantee an internet connection.

How do I choose an audition song?

DO:

- Choose a musical theater song that has a similar style as the audition show.
- Choose a song by the same composer as the audition show.
- Choose a song that is age appropriate. For younger students look at shows like: Annie, Oliver, Mary Poppins, Sound of Music, Matilda, all Disney musicals, etc.
- Choose a song that you feel confident singing and can hit ALL the notes.
- Choose a song that you can act: We are looking for expression, emotion, character, and appropriate movement.
- Choose a song that you like: you will be more likely to perform well using a song you enjoy!

DON'T:

- Sing from the show you are auditioning for.
- Sing a pop/rock song, unless the audition specifically asks for it. Pop songs do not show off the student's voice, and are very difficult to act.
- Sing a duet: It is hard enough to act one character during auditions, don't split your focus between two characters.
- Sing songs from overly popular musicals, or overused songs like: All songs from Wicked and Frozen, Don't Rain On My Parade, Just Can't Wait to Be King, etc.
- Choreography your audition: We have dance auditions, so don't feel the need to dance during your vocal audition. However, do use natural movement to express the song.
- Sing a song that has notes you can't hit.

How do I get a karaoke track for my song?

There are several resources for attaining a Karaoke Track. Start with iTunes. They have a wide range of Broadway Karaoke Tracks. Simply type song's name followed by Karaoke into the search engine. If you have chosen a rare song, you may find Karaoke tracks for purchase on the following websites:

<http://www.broadwaytrax.com/1/broadway-musicals>

<http://www.pumproom.com.au/index.html>

How do I cut my music?

If you are not starting at the beginning of a song, the easiest thing to do is ask the person running the music to start at a certain time. Or, have it already cued up on your iPod/iPhone. When you are finished with your audition section, simply stop singing and say 'Thank You.' DO NOT continue singing until the audition board cuts you off.

If you would like to cut your song on iTunes, you can follow these directions:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmP6xbDh_ek

Dance Auditions

All students who are auditioning are required to participate in the dance auditions. Dance auditions are Saturday morning and no preparation is required. Please wear clothes and shoes that are easy to move in. If you have dance attire or dance shoes, please wear/bring those. Avoid clothes that have spaghetti straps and shorts should be worn with tights/leggings underneath. Students will learn a short dance combination and perform it for the artistic team. Remember to be expressive and use character during your dance auditions. We are looking for a full performance! Dance auditions are closed, so parents and friends may not watch. Students should pack a water bottle.

Call-Backs

If the artistic team needs to see a person perform more, they will be asked to attend call-backs. A call-back list will be emailed to families Friday night. If you do not receive a call-back, it does not mean that you haven't been cast in the show. At call-backs, students will be asked to sing and read sides (small sections of script) from the show. Students should be familiar with the characters and music before they come to call-backs. The artistic team is looking for bold character choices, an understanding of the scene, and connection between actors. Call-backs are closed, so parents and friends may not watch. Students will be released at various times, so please make sure they have a cell phone to call you when they are finished. Students should look nice for call-backs, just as they did for their vocal auditions. Students should pack a water bottle and peanut-free snack.

Casting

Casting is an emotional time for everyone involved. Having been on both sides of the audition process, our artistic team understands that seeing the cast list can be filled with excitement or disappointment. The artistic team's goal is to place each student where they will shine! Casting is a large puzzle and there are many reasons why you may not be cast or may not be cast in the role you really wanted. Often, it has nothing to do with talent. Do not be discouraged. Use every audition as a learning experience and a chance to improve for next time. Disappointment is natural, here are some ways to handle it: Handling Disappointment.pdf

We are more than happy to give audition feedback a week after casting. We will not be available to comment directly following the release of the cast list. Please do not contact anyone on the artistic team or on staff for at least 48 hours after the cast list is posted.

A few reasons you may not be cast in the part you wanted:

1. You look too young or too old for the role
2. You are too tall or too short for the role
3. You don't fit the director's vision for the role

4. You are the only one who can fill another role
5. Your vocal style doesn't fit the role
6. You need to improve some dance, acting or singing techniques
7. You showed a bad attitude or immaturity during auditions