

Vocal Pre-Screening Audition Guide Tips for Successful Recording

This document is designed to showcase recording tips for your pre-screen vocal audition, which the faculty will use to determine your eligibility for an in-person audition. There are many ways to record a successful video. To help with the process, here is some guidance on creating the best recording. Please note that this information is meant to be a helpful guide of resource options and is in no way intended to be a list of requirements. We encourage you to create your best recording with the technology reasonably available to you.

General Tips

- **Utilize available technology:** Make the most of the equipment you already have on hand.
- **Smartphones are acceptable:** An iPhone or other smartphone can produce highly successful recordings.
- **Keep it simple:** It is not necessary or expected to record in a professional studio.
- **Optional equipment:** Highly technical recordings are unnecessary. Smartphone recordings are perfectly fine, though extra equipment like an external microphone, camera, or a tripod may be helpful.
- **Showcase yourself:** Relax, be yourself, and present your best vocal work!

The Recording Environment

- **Location:** Record in a room with good acoustics where your voice sounds natural and clear. Overly reflective rooms in your home (kitchens, small rooms with lots of hard surfaces) can cause undesirable ambience and may make accessing your voice difficult. A room with some soft material like curtains, soft furniture, etc. will help minimize excessive room ambience. If desired, you might consider recording at your school's theater, stage, band/choir room, or a local church sanctuary. All of these typically have very good acoustics.
- **Audio interference:** Keep in mind that any background noise (fans, traffic, pets) can interfere with overall audio quality. Check recordings for any distortion or excessive "buzz." Also, be certain that no "voice cancelling" technology is being used (like Zoom or Teams voice cancelling technology for meetings).
- **Lighting:** Consider proper lighting and use extra lamps or a ring light if necessary so the faculty can clearly see your face and expressions.
- **Camera angle:** Position the camera at an angle that best showcases your vocal posture and performance presence. Position the camera far enough away so that

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the faculty can see you in full, but not too far away that makes it difficult to see your face and expressions.

- **Background:** Neutral backgrounds and clean spaces are strongly preferred to keep the focus on you.
- **Attire:** Dress professionally, just as you would for an in-person audition.

Equipment Tips

- **Orientation:** If filming on a smartphone, horizontal (landscape) videos are generally preferred.
- **Microphone placement:** Ensure that the built-in phone microphone is not covered, obstructed by a stand or your hands, and not setup near a wall (to avoid odd reflections).
- **Headphones:** It is not suggested that you wear headphones during your on-screen performance. Have them available for checking vocal clarity, any odd room anomalies, or distortion.

Editing and Submitting Recordings

- **Trimming files:** Reduce your video file size by trimming any excess silence or footage off the beginning and end of your video.
- **Allowable edits:** You may make global adjustments to audio balance or levels (to ensure acceptable volume), trim the start or end of a recording to remove long spaces, and adjust image quality (color correction, white balance correction, and image stabilization).
- **Strictly prohibited:** Do not use added reverb, chorus, auto-tune, pitch correction, rhythm correction, or any other effects. Any sort of audio or video splicing during a piece is not allowed.
- **Quality check:** Review your recordings in full before uploading to ensure they are of good quality and accurately represent your best work.
- **Keep it authentic:** Do not submit a multi-camera, highly technical studio video.

File Submission Information

- **Size limits:** Individual files can be as large as 5GB, but keep in mind that larger files may take a significant amount of time to upload depending on your internet connection.

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Category	Preferred File Types
Video	avi, flv, m1v, m2v, m4v, mkv, mov, mpeg, mpg, mp4, webm, wmv

Department Specific Information

- **Capital Conservatory Requirements:** For specific vocal repertoire requirements and audition guidelines, please refer to the official "Auditions and Interviews" section on the Capital University Conservatory of Music website.

The faculty genuinely wants you to succeed in your pre-screening and audition process! Do your best and know that we are here to cheer you on and help answer your questions as you prepare for the Spring 2027 audition days!