

NSA REHEARSAL REMINDERS

Reminders for ALL NSA Semifinalists

- The rehearsal must begin and end on time—even if mid-song. Find your rehearsal room in advance so you can be prompt in arriving at your rehearsal 5 minutes before your rehearsal is scheduled to begin.
- Arrive at your rehearsal already vocally warmed-up—so you are ready to rehearse. During your rehearsal, please sing as you plan to sing in your audition to share with the staff pianist what to expect in your audition.
- Singers should come prepared to rehearse their selections by bringing their copyright compliant music to their rehearsal—remember that pianists must play all NSA auditions from purchased books, sheet music, downloads, or pdfs. Only photocopies authorized in writing by the copyright owner of each selection are copyright compliant.
- Singers must be prepared to discuss their tempi, dynamics, and other details specific to their audition selections. Most pianists are annoyed by finger snapping and conducting. Please ask your pianist how they would prefer you to communicate your tempo to them.
- Remember this rehearsal is for the staff pianist—not a lesson or coaching. This rehearsal will be led by the staff pianist to gain all they need to know to support your audition. Repetition is possible only if requested by the staff pianist.
- Please extend your respect and appreciation to our excellent staff pianists, but do not use the limited rehearsal time for chatting or criticism. Positive collaboration and cooperation will lead to the best audition possible.

Reminders for Children, Youth, and ALL High School Categories

- A supervising adult or teacher should be present in the rehearsal room. Only 1 additional adult may join the singer and the collaborative staff pianist in the rehearsal room. The rehearsal is for the singer and staff pianist.
- A supervising adult in the rehearsal room is optional for all High School Categories.
- If the singer has difficulty in explaining their ideas or needs in the rehearsal, the supervising adult **or** teacher should contribute—not both adults. Everyone in the room should remain positive, polite, and helpful. The rehearsals are the most effective in a cooperative and collaborative effort between the singer and pianist.

Reminders for ALL post-High School and Advanced Categories

- The singer and the staff pianist should be the only people in the room during an NSA staff pianist rehearsal. All exceptions to this guideline should be cleared in advance with Dan Johnson-Wilmot, NSA Coordinator.

Reminders for ALL Commercial Music Categories

- If planning to perform with pre-recorded track(s), affirm that BEFORE entering the audition room for my NSA rehearsal, semifinal audition, and potential final audition, I will...
 1. download my track(s) on a fully charged, Bluetooth-compatible device
 2. have all my track(s) immediately accessible on one device set to airplane mode
 3. bring someone other than my teacher to start and stop my track(s) for me
 4. play my track through the audition room's speaker
 5. perform using the audition room's microphone to amplify my voice
 6. disable the SLEEP mode & change my autolock setting to NEVER on my device
- If planning to perform an audition selection with an instrument other than piano, please do any necessary tuning of that instrument BEFORE entering the rehearsal or audition room.
- Please wash your hands just BEFORE your rehearsal and audition so that the microphone used by many consecutive singers does not spread germs from one singer to the next.
- Each CM rehearsal/audition room will have an Audio Assistant, who will have a list of your songs and accompaniment choices. The assistant will help you connect your device to the speaker, set your microphone volume levels, and help adjust the microphone to you. You will then rehearse with your staff pianist, if you paid for one. Once the audio equipment is set, the staff pianist will lead the rehearsal. If you have a personal pianist or other instrumentalist, the audio assistant will lead the rehearsal to set levels for each selection.
- Rehearsals and Semifinals are scheduled back-to-back with little to no transition time between semifinalists, so please be courteous to the next singer by exiting quickly at the end of your rehearsal. Time needed to adjust equipment and queue tracks is considered part of the rehearsal and audition time scheduled.
- Students and their accompanying adult should speak to the audio assistant and staff pianist with respect for their help with the audition. Respect that both individuals know best what they need to learn during the rehearsal.