

The Solo Final Process

In order to have the required repertoire and musical knowledge for local or collegiate auditions you must sing a variety of songs during your time here. Each student is required to sing a solo for their semester final in EACH of their choir classes. It is highly recommended that this song is selected early in the semester and practiced by the student on their own. There are six genres of music that students choose from to sing their final solo. The song styles are listed in the order that you will perform them in.

They are the following:

- Song of Choice
 - This is any song that will help the student in their music career in the future. It can be a song that also classifies as any of the other categories.
- Musical Theatre (Upbeat)
 - Any song featured in a musical that is upbeat or contrasting in mood to the other Musical Theatre song.
 - It is a common misconception that any song from a Disney film can be in this category. Only songs that are in musicals are in this category!
- Musical Theatre (Slow)
 - Any song featured in a musical that is not upbeat. This contrasts with the other Musical Theatre song.
 - It is a common misconception that songs in this category are “sad.” All it has to be is a contrasting mood from the upbeat one. For example, happy and sad, cynical and calm, angry and soothing.
- Jazz Standard
 - A standard in the style of a classic Jazz artist.
 - It is a common misconception that this is any jazzy-sounding pop song. If its a Michael Buble original, its not a standard
- Italian Aria
 - One of 26 songs in a book of standards that Mrs. Abbe has.
 - It is highly recommended that you use the karaoke for the song that Mrs. Abbe has because it follows the sheet music from the book.
 - If you would like to perform an aria that is not in the book, too bad. You must perform one from the book.
- Art Song
 - A song that was written for the sake of art. These songs are not featured in a show (television, film, or any stage production). They are usually poetry set to music.
 - It is very common that art songs are in lots of languages. Don't be intimidated by that!
 - Karaoke for art songs are notoriously difficult to find. Don't put that off for the last minute.

Here is a quick reference guide to the order that you will perform the songs in

First Year- 1st: Song of Choice 2nd: Musical Theatre Piece (Upbeat or Dramatic/Slow)

Second Year- 1st: Jazz Standard 2nd: Italian Aria

Third Year- 1st: Musical Theatre Piece (Contrasting to your first piece)
2nd: Art Song in English (In a Jury)

Fourth Year- 1st: Song of Choice
2nd: Two Pieces that are contrasting that are applicable to your future, one of the pieces will be selected by the Jury for you to sing. You must have live accompaniment.

Descriptions of these songs and styles of music will be available on the Resources page of the choir website.

If you take multiple classes in the same year, one of your classes must follow this path, the other we can discuss based on your interests musically.

The purpose of singing solos of all these genres is to prepare the student for any audition in their future, especially college auditions. With an extended repertoire and confidence in singing solos, our students have an advantage at any audition that they hope to participate in.

Most solos need to be accompanied by a karaoke track. Singing with a karaoke demonstrates ability to keep time. Karaoke can be found all over! Students may use karaokes from the internet, a CD, or borrow Mrs. Abbe's recorder to record one themselves. It is highly recommended that students have their karaoke early on in the semester and practice singing with it frequently to do well on their final. If the karaoke is online, it is also recommended that students download it to a mass storage device (such as a smart phone) to avoid any complications with the internet.

Students have the option to sing a capella (without music) or accompany themselves with an instrument, if the style of music they are singing dictates that.

Along with singing your solo there are other elements that factor into your final grade.

Karaoke: You will be required to show proof of your karaoke about one month into the semester.

Solo Video Reflection: You will be required to “critique” a video of yourself singing your final using a rubric and written comments. This will happen about three weeks after you have chosen karaoke. A rubric and example comments will be available two week before your video is due.

Final Solo Reflection: You will be required to fill out an online survey regarding your final experience from start to finish. This will help you realize where you could have been more successful as well as show you your strengths. A link to the online form will be available during final performances towards the end of the semester.

If you have any questions about your final, talk to Mrs. Abbe.