

## NCCT Audition information and Advice:

I have taken 15+ Musical Theater auditions on Broadway, and I can let you in on a few GREAT musical theater audition jewels of advice....

1. The song you pick for your audition Is crucial
2. Know your type for the show your auditioning for
3. Know the show BEFORE you audition
4. Be prepared for the audition all the way around.

1(a)

If you are gunning for a specific role (Yeah....you) then make sure that the song you choose and how you perform it will help the production staff to see you in that specific role. If you are trying to get the role of Harold Hill, you should not choose something from Les Miserables. If you are looking to get the role of Marion, you will not want to sing "Adelaide's Lament" and so on. Another good way to get song ideas is to ask your Music Teachers. Maybe they just heard this one great musical theater song and thought of you.

### And if all else fails:

Bring your best rendition of Happy Birthday to the audition and ROCK IT!

### Overdone Songs

What we really want is a singer who can march into that audition room and blow our socks off. And that's going to be you. In short, there's no such thing as an overdone song. Just sing it well, and sing it with truth.

2(a)

Everyone has a type. Whether you want to believe that or not is totally up to you. The problem is that many people think that they can play any role regardless. We directors love to put you in a box based on your age, height, weight, look, etc. Don't fight that. Play into it. If you think you can play Harold Hill, then you are half way there. The other half is up to the production staff to determine.

- **Remember...we are looking for actors that meet a specific vision overall. You may be a great Harold Hill, but if you are not cast as such, that does not necessarily mean that you did not give a great audition, but that you did not fit into this overall vision. Don't read into it or be upset. Remember that the roles will be there for you if you strive to learn and grow.**

3(a)

In order to pick an audition song that is in the style of the show, you will have to know the show. Rent the movie (s) listen to the soundtrack. This will help you in more ways than one. Especially during call backs when knowledge of the show can help immensely. You can also ask Bryan Smith for other shows in the spirit of "The Music Man". He has a ton of Musical Theater knowledge and will be a valuable asset to you.

4(a)

I cannot stress enough the Importance of being prepared for a musical theater audition. From the sheet music and how to prepare it to what you wear can help you in a huge way. For the music Man Auditions

Ms. Sullivan has asked that everyone bring sheet music. This is not mandatory, but any other form of audition is discouraged.

### **What to wear:**

Be comfortable, show us your personality, but don't go too far. We want to be able to see you in a role for this specific show, and while you may look great in a rock T-shirt and leather pants, this may not help you. Please ensure that you wear dance shoes or sneakers, as these will be required for the dance auditions.

### **Finding Sheet Music:**

The first thing to do is ask around. 55% of what you're looking for can be obtained from a friend of a friend. How about the other 45%? Do a search at [Sheet Music Plus](#); they have some of the obscure stuff you won't find elsewhere.

And my secret weapon is the [Drama Bookshop](#) in New York City. Those folks have been in business since 1917, right in midtown Manhattan. Your best bet? Call them up and ask. If they don't have it, they can get it. Anything you want! (And their shipping is really cheap.)

Piano and vocal sheet music is surprisingly easy to find, but a word of caution: Stay away from hand-written sheet music. It's hard for musicians to read, and ensure that the sheet music is in the same key you have been practicing in. There is nothing worse than having the accompanist playing a third higher or lower than you are used to. (Audition KILLER)

### **Cutting Your Sheet Music:**

Every song has a climax, or the most intense part, usually near the end. Your job is to find it in your sheet music. Then find sixteen measures leading up to it. That's called your *sixteen bars*. It doesn't have to be exactly sixteen measures long. You can be flexible. The trick is to get it to flow naturally, almost like a miniature song. As with most things, the more you practice, the better you get.

If you found your sheet music in a songbook, please do not bring the songbook into the audition. Your accompanist will spend the whole time trying to keep the book from falling over. Instead, photocopy the music. Then, splice your sixteen bars together with scissors and scotch tape. Then copy the whole thing again. Ask a friend, relative, teacher, to help if needed.

**You can get your sheet music here: (They are located in NYC and really know what they're doing).**  
<http://www.dramabookshop.com>