

HOW TO SELECT A SONG

AMDA's student population is diverse and, as an institution, AMDA subscribes to the philosophy that it is not necessary for performers to consider their own ethnicity, skin color, body shape, sexual preference, or gender in choosing material for our placement and scholarship auditions.

Choose a song you know extremely well. AMDA wants you to be vocally comfortable in the audition room. Sing something that is comfortable for you as opposed to something that causes anxiety and struggle. We want your confidence and passion to shine through.

Your song selection should be between 60 and 90 seconds, or 32 bars, excluding the piano introduction. It's usually simplest to start at the beginning and find a good place to stop, or, you may wish to start somewhere in the middle that takes you to the end. Don't fret about your cut. Choose the part of the song that shows you off the best.

AVOID

- Long narrative songs
- "Signature" songs of star performers
- Songs with difficult piano accompaniments or songs that take the focus off the singer and place it on the accompanist

SELECT

- Songs that show the most secure parts of your vocal range
- Songs that show your acting ability
- Songs with lyrics that you understand and for which you feel a personal connection

NOTE: Your personal favorites may not be the material that best serves you.

Still Looking For Songs?

For your convenience, we've listed numerous shows with songs that have been successful for students in the past. But, keep in mind there are hundreds of other great shows from the early 1900s until 2019 with songs that will be perfect for your audition. This list does not represent any preference AMDA has for a particular genre or time period. If you've found something from a show that is not on this list, something that you love, we urge you to use what best fits your talents. However, if you're still searching, the works below are a great place to start looking, or to expand your repertoire.

Aida
Ain't Misbehavin'
Allegiance
Bye Bye Birdie
Cabin in the Sky
Drat! The Cat!
Fame
Finian's Rainbow
Guys and Dolls
Hairspray
Kinky Boots
Little Shop of Horrors
Nine
Once On This Island
Pippin
Showboat (avoid Ol' Man River)
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
The Wedding Singer
The Wiz
Working
You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

OTHER GREAT OPTIONS

Disney films or stage musicals
Shows by Irving Berlin
Shows by George & Ira Gershwin
Shows by Alan Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe
Shows by Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart
Shows by Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein
Shows with music by Harold Arlen



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