

## ***Tips for a Successful Solo Musical Theatre Audition***

### **1. Choose Your Cut**

- Generally, you'll be asked to sing a short excerpt (called a "cut") from your chosen piece; rarely will the audition instructions ask you to offer the entire song.
- Typically, you'll be asked to prepare 16 or 32 measures (or "bars") for your audition.
- If you're unsure how to determine what constitutes 16 or 32 measures, you should consider working with a pianist, vocal coach or voice teacher to cut your music appropriately.
- A pianist or teacher will also be able to help you determine whether the piano accompaniment might be too difficult for an accompanist to sight-read at your audition.

### **2. Prepare Your Cut**

- Once you've chosen your cut, remember that the way in which you act it will be just as important as the way in which you sing it.
- In order to prepare a compelling and convincing interpretation of your song, consider the following questions:
  - With whom is my character interacting in this moment?
  - What does my character want from this person?
  - What obstacle is standing in my character's way of getting what s/he wants?
  - What tactics is my character employing, consciously or subconsciously, to obtain his/ her goal?
- After you've determined specific answers to the above questions, prepare a monologue version of your song (no singing yet!).
- Video yourself performing this monologue version, watch it a few times, then take notes for yourself.
- Once you feel you're offering a compelling version of your cut as a monologue, it's time to move on to adding the element of music.

### **3. Prepare Your Music**

- As you begin to add the element of music to your audition cut, remember that the specific acting choices you've made should now directly inform your vocal decisions.
- *Example:* If you decide that your character is **consoling** his or her imaginary scene partner in a particular moment of your cut, you probably wouldn't choose to belt that phrase.
- Be sure you're making vocal choices that are healthy and don't strain your voice.
- *Remember:* The audition room is not the place to try out your newest high notes!
- *Tip:* When possible, work with a vocal coach or teacher to prepare your cut. If it's possible to rehearse your cut with a pianist, be sure to make use of that opportunity, too.
- *Video:* Once you've refined the musical interpretation of your cut, video yourself performing the audition excerpt once again, this time with singing added. Be sure to wear the outfit and footwear you've chosen for your audition so as to avoid unnecessary surprises these might present at the audition itself.

### **4. Have Fun and Breathe!**

- On audition day, be sure to have fun!
- Ensure that your voice and body are fully warm, and do your best to offer a sincere, engaging performance.
- Deep breathing often helps to calm nerves!