

PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE AUDITIONS
KATHLEEN MARTIN – PRESENTER
NATS – SAN DIEGO 11/22/11

A. Preparation

1. Repertoire

- a. Choose 5 songs early in junior year
 1. Aria – standard rep.
 2. Italian song from Baroque era
 3. French chanson
 4. German Lied
 5. English lang. 20th century
- b. Songs should have accompaniment that is not difficult to sight read as accompanist may not know
- c. Songs should
 1. Show strengths
 2. Not be too difficult or complex
 3. Be singable when tired or jetlagged

2. General

- a. Sing as many competitions as possible
- b. Work with a teacher and also professional coach when able
- c. Attend summer camps/workshops/programs (esp. at the school of choice in Fresh. or Soph. year)
- d. End of junior year all songs memorized
- e. Summer before senior year
 1. Stay home and study
 2. No music camps
 3. Prepare prescreening CD and DVD
- f. Begin and complete application process as soon as possible.
 1. Most major universities have “common application”
 2. Many music and performing arts schools have “unified application”

B. Colleges

1. Choose 10-15 universities/conservatories
 - a. Some should be reach
 - b. Majority expected acceptance
 - c. Some safety-net
2. Make a spread sheet
 - a. List schools
 - b. Note if prescreening requirements – CD or DVD
 - c. List repertoire requirements
 - d. Any other requirements
 1. sight singing
 2. monologue
 3. theory test
3. With teacher’s help, fill in required songs for each school
4. Prepare folder for recommendations (to be given to teachers)
 - a. Bio
 - b. Stamped envelopes addressed to schools
 - c. Printout of any required forms
 - d. List of dates due for each school
 - e. Get this to teachers well before deadline (some schools have online recommendations)
5. Check out teachers on faculty and list first 3 choices. School may require you to list these on application.
6. After acceptance of prescreening
 - a. If there are campus visitation days and you plan to attend, try to schedule a lesson with the voice teacher you’re interested in at the same time. Saves money.
 - b. Arrange for audition date
 - c. Schedule schools in same city or area on same day or next day
 - d. Arrange to meet and take a lesson from target faculty if you didn’t do (a.)
 - e. While traveling get plenty of sleep and stay hydrated