Duke Ellington School of the Arts
SY27-28 Audition Procedures – Vocal Music

GUIDELINES

All students must submit an audition video. All audition videos must be submitted by the February 1st deadline. After which, selected students will be invited to the live audition/callback session. All families will be required to participate in the family interview process if their student is selected to move forward.

All auditions are closed to parents/guardians, family members or peers. If you leave during your audition, you may be disqualified from completing the admissions process.

If you have any questions, conflicts and/or health concerns, please contact the Admissions Office at admissions@ellingtonarts.org for further assistance.

What We Are Looking For

- Passion – Auditioners must have a desire for singing and an eagerness to learn the technical aspects of the art form. Auditioners must show a willingness to embrace traditional vocal technique
- Auditioners must have a willingness to learn to sing repertory of all genres including, but not limited to, arts songs in multiple languages, folksongs, musical theater standards, spirituals, etc.
- Vocal Potential – Auditioners must have a clear ability to match pitch (good intonation and tonal memory), a good sense of rhythm and a suitable vocal range.
- Performance Potential – Auditioners must have a willingness to explore all possibilities of the art form through expression and vulnerability.
- Academic/Artistic Success – As Ellington is a college preparatory school, we are looking for students who can be successful in their academic and art classes. As we are a dual curriculum program, students must understand the importance of dedicated time to both art and academic classes.
- A Cooperative Attitude – Auditioners must be able to work well with others in and outside of class, this includes students, faculty, and staff.
- Endurance – Auditioners must have the stamina and capacity to successfully manage the longer school day, which is 9+ hours in addition to daily homework, daily practice, and performances. One must be a dedicated student who practices regularly and strives for excellence.

What to Upload/How to Prepare

1. To prepare for your video submission, memorize *one* piece from the list below and present your piece acapella (without instrumental accompaniment). We recommend all applicants submit their pieces recorded on camera.
2. Categories: Below are the acceptable song choices for auditions. There is no benefit in choosing a more difficult piece. The overall goal should be accuracy, musicality, and expression in the piece chosen.

3. Upload a video file of you singing the memorized piece to the following email address: admissions@ellingtonarts.org. We encourage you to submit a pre-recorded piece so you can take your time, do as many takes as possible, and submit the BEST version of yourself!

The subject line should reflect the following:
Student Name, Vocal Music Audition Video SY27-28

The body should reflect the following:
Full Name, Current Age, Current Grade, Current School

Music Song List

1. Amazing Grace
   o (First verse ending with "Blind but now I see")
2. Lift Every Voice and Sing
   o (First verse ending with "Til victory is won")
3. America the Beautiful
   o (First verse ending with "From sea to shining sea")
4. Climb Every Mountain
5. Star Spangled Banner
6. Art song in English, Italian or German
7. Ballad of your choice

NOTE: Auditioners who do not upload their submissions by the My School DC application deadline are still granted an opportunity to audition LIVE on the first day of Vocal Music callbacks.

The LIVE Audition Process

Only if you DID NOT UPLOAD A RECORDED VIDEO - During your audition for the Vocal Music Department at DESA, you will:

- Present a musical selection chosen from the approved list (sung acapella).
- Be tested in aural skills via vocal exercises and pitch matching.

Upon completion of the initial auditions, the Vocal Music faculty will select a group of auditioners to continue the audition process by participating in an IN-PERSON vocal music callback class. Auditioners are ***required to attend the full class in order to remain a candidate for the Vocal Music department.*** Auditioners ***invited for callbacks will be notified by the Admissions Office if selected.***

Please contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org with any questions or concerns related to attending the callback class.

Have a Successful Audition

- To present yourself in the best light possible:
  - Say your name clearly and answer questions completely.

- Prepare your piece well (make sure the piece is memorized) and sing with confidence.
- Be ready to talk about yourself, your past musical experiences, and your goals for the future. Give these ideas some thought.

Please note 504 and IEP accommodation is available. Please contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org with any questions or concerns.