

Tips for a Successful Video Audition

- Choose a nice fairly quiet area to shoot your video.
- Good ideas for a backdrop:

A solid color wall, brick or wood panel wall - Ideally a plain background (with nothing distracting)

Tip: Even hanging a colored sheet behind you is better than shooting with a cluttered background.

**REMEMBER: The point of this is to showcase you, not make the judges wonder what's behind you.

Bad Ideas: Your bedroom closet, your bathroom, in front of a window, in front of a mirror, or in your car.

(Basically if you'd take a selfie in front of it, it too distracting.)

- Dress in a contrasting color so you stand out (i.e. Do not wear black against a dark or black background)
- Turn on the Lights! Remember we want to be able to see you, and that's hard to do in a dark room.

Shooting your video

- You can shoot your audition videos using any device: a camera, computer, tablet, or even your cell phone.

**REMEMBER: Make sure that whatever you're recording on, can also record sound.

- Do a quick test & make sure the sound is decent – remember you're trying to prove you sound good!

(This means if you're singing or talking, sing or talk at normal or full volume and make sure it sounds alright and if singing that you are heard over a playing piano or accompaniment.)

- If you are using a cell phone or tablet, please try to shoot the video in horizontal resolution, not vertical.

(This means turn your phone sideways, not up and down.)

- If you need help, ask for it. Have someone else hold the camera, phone or tablet for you.

- If you choose to do it yourself, prop whatever you're recording with up on its own. This can be done using a tripod, or even hard-cover books. JUST Be sure to use a hard surface that doesn't move when you do (IE: A piano that is being played, or a table that shakes when you move)

Frame your video

The "frame" is what the camera sees and where it cuts you off. Make sure we can see you in your video. Ideally we would like a shot of you from at least the waist up, but we need to see your entire head.

**REMEMBER: If you are singing, you may want to be standing – and you will want whatever is recording you to be at near the same height and not tilted up at you.

Try several takes!

Why do it only one time, when you can do it several & choose the best one?

Watch your videos

MAKE SURE you watch the video you plan to submit before you submit it! This means before and after uploading it to YouTube. Just double-check that you can see and hear everything without issue.

Time Limits

Remember some of these videos have a strict time limit, so make sure your video is under. If it isn't you may be able to edit it on YouTube – This can be done using the YouTube Video Editor.

The guide to using YouTube video editor is found here:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/183851?hl=en&ref_topic=3014750