

College Considerations

If you are planning to audition for colleges as a voice performance major or musical theater major, most require a CD recording and/or video as a first-round audition. After reviewing your audition CD, prospective schools will want to hear you in person as well. Some schools have specific requirements including choosing from a list of songs. Most, however, simply state that they want to hear 2-3 contrasting art songs or arias (BM) or ballades and up tempo along with a monologue (BFA). This generally means different languages and styles (BM) or different shows and styles (BFA). When you determine the schools you will be applying to, find out the audition requirements for each school and begin a list of which school needs what. We can then set about preparing appropriate repertoire for each school. To create your CD, you will need to coordinate a time, an accompanist and recording engineer. It's never too soon to start coordinating this project. I have connections on all fronts if you do not. I can assist in choosing repertoire.

Various Degree Programs

Schools that offer a BM (Bachelor of Music) typically have the most intensive music programs. Education degrees are typically in the form of a BA (Bachelor of Arts) in Music with an Education emphasis. If you seek an education degree, be sure it includes credentialing. Similarly, it's possible to be a music major seeking a BA. BA programs tend to emphasize general education and have fewer major offerings and fewer faculty. Actors and dancers seek a BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) degree or BA. These are the theater and dance equivalents to a BM and BA. A BFA degree is conservatory level and a BA is more general.

Some Music Schools of Note are:

Boston Conservatory; Curtis Institute of Music; Eastman School of Music; Florida State University College of Music; Indiana University (Bloomington); Julliard; University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance; New England Conservatory; Northwestern University School of Music; Oberlin Conservatory of Music; Westminster Choir College

I Attended:

Wheaton Conservatory, Bachelor of Music, Voice Performance
Southern Methodist University, Master of Music, Voice Performance

Previous Voice Students Have Gone to Schools in the Arts Including:

CSU Chico, CSU San Diego, CSU San Francisco
UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz
Berklee College of Music, Boston University, Chapman, Eastman, Loyola Marymount, New York University, Northern Arizona University, St. Olaf, Southern Methodist University

You Can Learn Anywhere

I went to a small Christian college in a Chicago suburb. If I had it to do over, I would go to a state school for more student activities, a bigger campus life and more fun (and less expensive). That said, there are things I experienced at Wheaton I would not have experienced anywhere else. The theater program there, for example, was life changing, largely due to the main theater professor. Further, Wheaton was my first choice at the time and I have life-long friends from my college experience. Every school has something to offer. You can learn ANYWHERE!

A lot of parents and students are nervous about spending a lot of money on an education in the arts, especially when there aren't a lot of jobs and the ones that exist don't pay great. Some consider a "fall back" degree and choose to double-major. You may already know, **the majority of students who receive a degree don't actually end up working in the field they majored in.** College is a time to become an adult, to learn to cope outside the nest and to be on your own. It's also a time to **follow your passion!** Reality hits soon enough. If you want to major in the arts, go for it!

"I Know a Career in the Arts is What I Want", You Say? GREAT!

A dancer once asked Martha Graham, "do you think I have what it takes to make it as a dancer?" She replied, "if you have to ask, then no." Basically, you have to be COMPELLED to work in the arts. You have no other choice, meaning you're THAT driven to make it work. If this is you, think strategically. It's smart to go where the market is prime for the skills you are training. Plan to audition a lot and make some money singing or performing whenever possible. Sing in church, at weddings and funerals. These are all great ways to learn and earn!

Getting Started. Develop a pro/con list. What is negotiable, what is not?

- 1) Size of school. State vs. Private.
- 2) Number of choirs, number of operas or musicals performed, number of full-time voice staff, course offerings, etc.
- 3) Degrees offered and degree sought (BM, BA, BFA)
- 4) Housing situation (on campus, or off)
- 5) Number of students in program
etc.
- 6) Visit campuses and follow your gut!
- 7) Other considerations?

I hope this helps!

WIKIPEDIA to the rescue!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Music_schools_in_the_United_States

List of colleges and university schools of music in the USA (not comprehensive, but a start)

- A
- The Academy of Music
 - American Boychoir School
 - American Conservatory of Music
 - American Festival for the Arts
 - American Music Institute
 - Ars Nova School of the Arts
 - Aspen Music Festival and School
- B
- Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music
 - Bard College Conservatory of Music
 - Berklee College of Music
 - Berkleemusic
 - Blair School of Music
 - Bloomington School of Music
 - Blue Bear School of Music
 - Boston Academy of Music
 - Boston Conservatory
 - Boston University College of Fine Arts
 - Brevard Music Center
- C
- California College of Music
 - Carnegie Mellon School of Music
 - Center for Improvisational Music
 - Chicago Musical College
 - Clark Conservatory of Music
 - Cleveland Institute of Music
 - Colburn School
 - University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music
 - Combs College of Music
 - Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center
 - Crane School of Music
 - Culver City Academy of Visual and Performing Arts
 - Curtis Institute of Music
- D
- DC Youth Orchestra Program
- D cont.

Duke University String School
E
Eastern Music Festival
Eastman School of Music
Eastman School of Music Composition Department
Encore School for Strings
F
Five Towns College
Florida International University
Florida State University College of Music
Frost School of Music
G
Granoff School of Music
H
Hardin College and Conservatory of Music
I
Idyllwild Arts Foundation
Interlochen Center for the Arts
J
Jacobs School of Music
Juilliard School
L
Lawrence University
Longy School of Music
M
MacPhail Center for Music
Manhattan School of Music
Manhattan School of Music Precollege Division
Mannes College The New School for Music
Mariam Cannon Hayes School of Music
Mary Pappert School of Music
Maryland Conservatory of Music
McNally Smith College of Music
Merit School of Music
Midwest Young Artists
Moores School of Music
Music Academy of the West
Musicians Institute
N
National Conservatory of Music of America
New England Conservatory
New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music
Normal Musical Institute
N cont.
Northwestern University School of Music
O
Oberlin Conservatory of Music
Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts
P
Pacific Boychoir
Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts
Peabody Institute
Pennsylvania Academy of Music
Perlman Music Program
Perpich Center for Arts Education
Philip and Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music
Powers Music School
R
Roberto-Venn School
S
San Diego State University College of Professional Studies & Fine Arts
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music
Savannah Music

Shepherd School of Music
Southern Methodist University (Meadows School of the Arts)
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Stetson University
T
Texas Tech University College of Visual & Performing Arts
The Hartt School
The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music
The Paul Green School of Rock Music
Third Street Music School Settlement
U
UIUC College of Fine and Applied Arts
USC Thornton School of Music
Under The Sun Studios
University of Maryland School of Music
University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance
University of North Texas
W
The Walden School
Westminster Choir College
Wheaton Conservatory
Williamson Voices
Wisconsin