

SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

Vocal Music Expectations

Winter 2006

Annie

Brett Fisher

Music Supervisor

310-871-4700

brett@smclo.org

Brett Ryback

Musical Director/Conductor

310-923-8662

wbtoofar@hotmail.com

Private Vocal Lessons: Private vocal lessons and coaching are always available and encouraged! Please contact either of us to arrange for a lesson.

What to bring to Rehearsal: Please *always* bring the following to *all* rehearsals.

- 1) Your music, this includes the libretto section too. If you can't read music, that's okay. I will teach you. Your music should be all kept together in the same 3-ring notebook. (Including all handouts and music notation worksheets, if passed out).
- 2) A tape recorder, and your accompaniment tapes. If you are not on stage, you will find reviewing these very helpful. Use them for practicing without a piano and or if you can't teach yourself.
- 3) A pencil to add phrase markings, cutoffs, music re-writes, etc... A highlighter is always helpful too.

Basic Rehearsal Principals and Performance Expectations:

- 1) **Please do not sing acapella on stage.** There are only 3 ways to get out of this.
 - a. Buy a pitch wheel. They are really useful. This also means you need to know the starting pitches of your songs so you can sing acapella -- in the right key.
 - b. Plunk your starting pitch out on the piano first before you start. This requires you to orientate yourself with the modern-American 88 key piano or keyboard. (Ask Brett)
 - c. Rehearse with a rehearsal accompanist or tape accompaniment of all songs.
- 2) **There is a direct correlation between singing, choreography, and cutoffs!**
 - When you are learning and rehearsing choreography you will be expected to know your music parts and ensemble harmonies while you are wood-shedding your choreography.
 - Never sing without getting your starting pitch first when you are running choreography. Use a pitch wheel or piano to get your note.
 - You are expected to know all cutoffs and where they fit into the blocking of all choreography. Group cutoffs that are precise impress the audience!
 - You are empowered to remind and positively encourage your fellow cast-members about cutoffs and articulation to better the performance of the ensemble in the absence of either music director.
- 3) **No one will pay money to see a show they cannot understand**
 - Articulate! End every note with a consonant, sing/sustain on vowels and you'll be fine. Enough said.

We will hold all cast members to these expectations. If we didn't have such high expectations, your production would never be as professional as it will be. Additionally, w'd be depriving the cast from the potential success that we know you are capable of delivering. Have fun!