Recording Guidelines for Voice

Any vocalist who feels qualified may audition, regardless of special training or formal involvement with choirs or ensembles. Your audition will consist of two parts: Your recorded audition of two contrasting songs, and a later Skype/Teams/Zoom interview. After you have submitted the audition to youtube, mail the link to brucerous@gmail.com. You must also scan and email him a copy of the music you are performing.

- Vocal Selections: Begin your solo video by introducing yourself and your selections.
- Your solos (one classical selection, one musical theater selection shall not be any longer than 5 minutes each.
- Memorized solos are preferred. Be expressive; sing your best.
- Vocalists are to perform with live piano accompaniment. An A Capella submission will not be considered. Neither will submissions for which a scanned copy of the score has not been submitted. This requires a bit of planning on your part. Reach out to your school choir director, band director, your house of worship, or another student you know that plays piano.

Tips for a successful video:

- Submissions must not have been edited or enhanced for sound
- One microphone should be used to record both the singer and pianist.
- The camera (most will use a Smart Phone) should be placed in a fixed position in front of the singer at a distance that shows both facial expression and physical posture/presentation
- Wear professional clothing (e.g., dress slacks, shirt, and shoes for men—ties, jackets and suits are not necessary; dresses, skirts, or pants for women) but dress comfortably.
- Record yourself in an interior space that is free from interruptions, noise, etc.
- Review the video to ensure that you can be seen AND heard.
- Consider practicing your songs in front of your friends, teachers and family before you record. Get their opinion.

Tips for choosing your musical selections:

- Sing a piece that you know that you sing beautifully.
- Selections need not be in a foreign language.
- Rap, pop, country selections will not be accepted.
- You will be assessed on vocal potential, tone production, accuracy of pitch and rhythm, diction and proper musical interpretation.
- Students should consider their own vocal strengths when choosing a musical selection, and they should weigh the difficulty of the pieces. We would rather hear a more simple song performed beautifully, than a difficult song sung “okay.”
- Use your judgment! Ask your music teacher for advice about your selection and for tips and suggestions on how to better prepare for and present your GSA audition/interview.

The Skype/Teams Interview:

- Be prepared to talk about your experience in music—school/church choir, ensembles, private studies, etc.
- Be prepared to talk about why you are passionate about music and why you are interested in attending GSA
- You should be in a quiet space away from distractions as you may be asked to sing.

Check List:

- Contact a piano accompanist early enough so that you can practice together.
- Post your video on youtube according to the directions on the video.
- Scan and send a copy of the printed music for you vocal selections