



TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPETITION

please read — you'll be glad you did!

- 1) Choose a piece that you feel good about singing (e.g., you sing it well and expressively, you meet its technical demands comfortably and consistently, you “connect” with the song, etc).
- 2) Practice, practice, practice. Practice with your special outfit and shoes on. Practice in front of other people. Practice smiling at your audience and showing them what the song means to you. Videotape your practice so that you can see if you are REALLY showing what you *think* you are showing. Practice mentally: imagine yourself singing the song expressively and confidently. Imagine yourself enjoying the competition. Practice taking deep breaths for when you feel nervous; feeling nervous is natural and should be expected!
- 3) Set three personal goals for the event. The competition is basically a performance with three people watching and writing down constructive advice that you will receive later. If you are concerned about the judges, you are not focusing on *your performance*. Setting goals empowers you to stay focused on your job and feel successful within yourself. Sample goals include: “I will remember to bow my head for three deep abdominal breaths before I start to sing,” “I will stay in character through the whole song,” or “I will keep my shoulders loose on the last note.” Set your goals with your teacher and write them down below:

My three (3) personal goals are . . .
1.) _____
2.) _____
3.) _____

- 4) Take care of yourself: aim for a good night's sleep and healthy food in the days leading up to the event. Drink plenty of water.
- 5) Arrive early to the event. Warm-up sufficiently either at home or on campus (if you are not sure how to warm-up, speak beforehand with your teacher for guidance).
- 6) Smile at the other singers. Know that they are nervous, too. You are actually in this together. Before your performance, though, keep your focus internal and save your energy for your time on stage.
- 7) Smile at the judges. It will relax you and you will have more fun.
- 8) GO FOR IT. Enjoy your performance.
- 9) If you place among the winners, remember that you will be performing at the winners concert and you'll need to re-focus yourself to sing again.
- 10.) In the end, don't confuse winning with success. You will be successful in this competition if you prepare well, set and meet your personal goals, and stay open to learning something about yourself.
- 11.) The judges' feedback is intended to help you progress. The “points” that they give you are based on that ONE performance on that ONE day. You may notice that different judges give you different points; this happens because their responses are subjective. Discuss the feedback with your teacher. Use the helpful feedback and discard the rest.
- 12.) Once the dust settles, sign up to sing at another event. Share the song you have worked so hard on at Performathon, the All-Voice Recital, or a monthly recital - whatever suits you. Just keep singing!