



Vocal Music Audition

The theme for GSA 2025 is "Arts in Community." When we create art, we interact with and serve our communities. West Virginia has a rich cultural history, with diverse communities expressing themselves through music, dance, theater, writing, and visual arts. We draw on this cultural heritage to foster community through art at GSA, empowering you to find community with other artists both in and outside of your chosen artistic discipline.

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:

PART ONE: Vocal Exercises

You must record a video audition where you sing TWO vocalization exercises AND TWO contrasting songs.

- Begin your solo video by introducing yourself.
- Sing along with the provided recording of vocalization exercise #1 (or with your accompanist, playing the same tempo featured on the recording), beginning in E Major closest to the middle of your vocal range. If using the recording, please use the version appropriate for your voice part (Soprano and Alto OR Tenor and Bass). You will hear the exercise that you're to sing, and then sing it on the syllable "Fa" in that same key. Continue, repeating the exercise, each time a half step lower, stopping when you have reached the comfortable lower limit of your vocal range.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal exercise. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. Both staves are in the key of E major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#) and 4/4 time. The first measure of each staff contains a quarter note on the line 'Fa' (F#4 in the treble, F#3 in the bass). The second measure contains a quarter note on the space 'G' (G#4 in the treble, G#3 in the bass). The third measure contains a quarter note on the space 'A' (A4 in the treble, A3 in the bass). The fourth measure contains a quarter note on the space 'B' (B4 in the treble, B3 in the bass). The fifth measure contains a half note on the space 'C' (C5 in the treble, C4 in the bass). The sixth measure contains a whole note on the space 'C' (C5 in the treble, C4 in the bass). A red horizontal line is drawn across both staves, starting from the 'Fa' note and extending to the right. To the right of the red line, the text "(continue to descend by half steps)" is written.

[Vocalization Exercise #1 - Recording for Soprano and Alto Voices](#)

[Vocalization Exercise #1 - Recording for Tenor and Bass Voices](#)

- Sing along with the provided recording of vocalization exercise #2 (or with your accompanist, playing the same tempo featured on the recording), beginning in E Major closest to the middle of your vocal range. If using the recording, you'll first hear the exercise that you're to sing, and then sing it on the syllable "Ma" in that same key. Continue, repeating the exercise, each time a half step higher, stopping when you have reached the comfortable upper limit of your vocal range.

Ma _____ (Continue to ascend by half steps)

Ma _____

[Vocalization Exercise #2 - Recording for Soprano and Alto Voices](#)

[Vocalization Exercise #2 - Recording for Tenor and Bass Voices](#)

- Next sing your two contrasting songs, introducing each before you start with the title of the selection, the larger work it comes from (if applicable) and the composer). Your two songs should not be any longer than 5 minutes each and should contrast one another in as many ways as possible (tempo, language, style, etc.)
- Vocalists are to perform with live accompaniment. An a cappella 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 church or place of worship, another student you know that plays piano, or accompany yourself.
- **Please record your audition as one video**, rather than separate videos for each vocalization and contrasting songs (1 video with everything, not 4 separate recordings).
- Upload your video audition to YouTube, and make sure the title is in the following format: "Your First and Last Name – GSA Vocal Music Audition 2025"

- uploading your video as “unlisted” will give you complete control over who can view it.

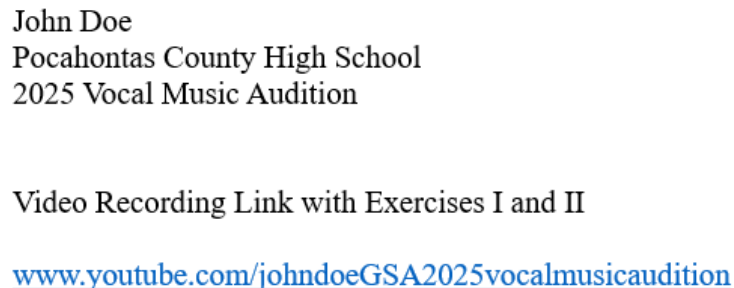
File Submission

- Record the video using the highest quality possible.
- Upload the video to YouTube.
- Create a PDF with the video URL to the location of your video.
- Include your **First and Last Name, School, and “2025 Vocal Music Audition Video”** as a title to the PDF. **Please ensure you have granted public access to the video.** WVDE and GSA staff must be able to view the video.
- **You must include your first and last name in the file or video name.**
- Upload the PDF to the file submission folder below:

File Submission: <https://tinyurl.com/2sue9wn9>

The only file you should submit to the submission folder is a PDF with the recording link.

An example of what the PDF file should include:



John Doe
Pocahontas County High School
2025 Vocal Music Audition

Video Recording Link with Exercises I and II

www.youtube.com/johndoeGSA2025vocalmusicaudition

PART TWO: Follow-up Interview

You will be invited to a Zoom interview where Dr. Dan will talk with you and take you through some additional vocal exercises.

- Warm up your voice before the online interview. You will be asked and directed to sing several things (pitch retention melodies, listening to chords and singing pitches from them, sight-singing shared music). Dr. Dan will talk you through all steps for this portion of the online experience.
- 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.

AUDITION SUGGESTIONS:

Tips for choosing your musical selections and recording your auditions:

- Sing pieces you know and sing well.
- Memorized solo performances are preferred.
- Your selections do not need to be in a foreign language, they just need to contrast one another.
- Consider your own vocal strengths when choosing a musical selection. You should weigh the difficulty of the pieces. We would rather hear a simpler song performed well than a difficult song sung poorly.
- 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.
- Think through and plan for all the things you'll need to make your audition work (smartphone or other video recording device, accompanist, keyboard, means to play audio for scales, checklist/setlist/script, etc.).
- Practice your audition! In addition to practicing your solo pieces and the vocalization exercises, practice taking the successive steps for what you will do and say. It may help to write a specific script of what you'll say to help you navigate record calmly and efficiently.
- If it helps, record your audition multiple times.
- You will be assessed on tone quality, pitch/intonation, rhythm, vocal technique (posture, breathing), diction, and musicality.