

## Tips for Successful Vocal Auditions at Ole Miss:

- ✓ **Sound classy.** Avoid rock, pop, R&B, jazz, country, a cappella, etc. at all costs. Choose pieces with piano accompaniment that you would take to a solo/ensemble contest. If you are performing \*two, choose pieces with contrasting style that will compliment your range and abilities. Broadway is okay, but not recommended for both pieces. Art songs and arias are ideal. If you have a foreign language piece prepared, great! However, the goal is to show off your voice. You want something that will make you shine - not something that will make you nervous about hitting that high note you've only been able to hit twice in rehearsal.
- ✓ **Come prepared.** Have your music *memorized* and bring copies for the accompanist. *There will be no equipment to play recorded music*, so come early to practice with our accompanist (unless you are bringing someone to play for you). We will provide an experienced accompanist free of charge.
- ✓ **Bring a résumé.** If you've been keeping track of your accomplishments and activities (especially musical ones), bring a copy so we can add it to your file. You might want to go ahead and bring the one-page narrative so you will have plenty of time to collect your thoughts. You are welcome to write it during your audition, but having it ready will save you time and the added stress of writing on the spot.
- ✓ **Dress for success.** You want to look professional. Opt for the slacks and loafers or skirt and heels rather than the shorts and flip-flops. Think about the kind of impression you want to leave with our faculty. Dressing up is not a *requirement*, so don't worry if your travel plans will not allow you to slip into your Sunday best. But looking like a pro may help you feel like a pro too.
- ✓ **Take care of yourself.** You've heard this before, right? Get plenty of rest, drink plenty of water, and eat at least an hour before your audition. You don't want any of these little things to get in the way of your scholarship opportunities.
- ✓ **Show up.** Sounds obvious, but it makes a difference. The faculty have set aside time in their busy schedules for you, and simply neglecting to show up for the audition does not leave a good impression. If you are running late, please let us know. If you will not be able to make your audition, please call (662) 915-5115 ahead of time to reschedule or cancel. Our office is generally open Monday-Friday from 8:00AM-5:00PM. Calling during this time is preferred, but you are more than welcome to leave a message. If circumstances will not allow you to call ahead, it is appropriate to call and apologize for your absence as soon as possible.

\* If you are even *thinking* about majoring or minoring in music, prepare two pieces, and audition as a music major on one of the audition days. Sure, it will require a little more work on your part, but more scholarships are available to music majors. Even if you are not quite sure about your career, you can always change your mind later (bearing in mind that scholarships will be adjusted accordingly). However, if you KNOW that you definitely do NOT plan to major or minor in music, you do not have to prepare a piece to audition for choral service stipends and/or tuition waivers.