

HELPFUL HINTS FOR SINGERS

by StageSource – written December 2009

DO:

- Present your music in a binder or photocopied on card stock.
- Photocopy so that everything is legible, including all the notes on the bottom of the page and the chord symbols (if any) at the top of the page
- Clearly mark
 - The beginning and end
 - Any tempo, meter or key changes
 - Anything unusual you may do within the body of the song (breaks, sudden stops, monologues, etc.)
- Bring a copy of your monologue if it precedes the song in the audition
 - Or write the last line of the monologue on your music
- Time your songs in advance
- Sing songs that show off your talents as a singer and musician—belt vs. legit, pop vs. classical, good sense of rhythm
- Sing songs that show you off as an actor—what is your point of view, what are you trying to say?
- Check with your voice teacher, coach or pianist in advance to see how it sight-reads

DON'T:

- Ask the pianist to play out of a song book, a score or anything that needs to be propped open
- Ask the pianist to transpose
- Sing a song for the first time at an audition
- Sing a song that you have not already sung with a pianist

TRY NOT TO:

- Sing to a cassette tape or CD. Live accompaniment is always better
- Ask the pianist to play a song with multiple meter changes (e.g. 3/4 to 5/4 to 4/4)