

Year-End-Solo Information

(this means YOU!)

revised 8/11

The following is a compilation of several pieces of information that will enable you to have a more rewarding and successful performance of your end-of-the year solo. If you have any questions feel free to come and talk to us about it.

Places to purchase your accompaniment track:

Search the iTunes online store for your accompaniment (Demos of many songs are available, too). There are many songs available and they sound pretty good.

Below are a few more links, but there are MANY available online. Please be advised that the only ones listed below that we have personal experience with is the Christianbook.com and keraoke_version.com links. We've also used iTunes.

HYPERLINK http://www.karaoke_version.com

HYPERLINK <http://www.karaokemusicdirectory.com>"

HYPERLINK <http://www.soundchoice.com>

HYPERLINK http://www.christianbook.com/html/static/accpage_mf.html?p=1018818

If you are looking for Christian music (This is highly recommended if you are involved in your church ministry, as you can use the solo in church sometime!) There are two establishments fairly close to us that you can go and purchase a CD onsite:

Kregel Bookstore: 4014 Chicago Dr. Grandville; 531-7707

9:00 am-9:00 pm Mon. - Sat.

Prices range from \$6.99-11.98

If you need to order a track it takes 6-10 days to arrive.

Family Christian Stores: 3819 Rivertown Parkway; 406-0356

9:00 am-9:00 pm Mon-Sat.

Prices range from 6.99-11.98

If you need to order a track it takes a week to 10 days.

Other Places: Target, Meijer, Best Buy and any other place that sells Karaoke CD's: Many more places are now selling Karaoke accompaniments and those work just fine. There are many places online too. This is really just a partial list of places that you can go to for your accompaniment.

OTHER ISSUES

Choose your song carefully. You must use more criteria besides the fact that you like a song. You need to take into account the range, melodic interest, subject matter, etc.

Most popular female vocalists sing too low, and too loud in the low range. If you choose

a song that is in your low range be very careful that you don't press too hard on the voice. Don't pick a song that stays at the bottom of your range through the whole song. Most praise and worship songs that many of you sing in church can be used and accompaniments are usually pretty easy to find in Christian bookstores and online. They are designed to be very "singable" and in most cases come in multiple keys to fit your vocal range. Here are examples of solos that students have performed in past years:

Adonai
All The Small Things
Build Me Up Buttercup
Breaking Up is Hard to Do
Circle of Friends
Come, Now is the Time for Worship
Do You Believe in Magic
Dust in the Wind
Edelweiss
El Shadai
Here I am to Worship
I Believe I Can Fly
I Got the Sun in Morning
I Hope You Dance
In My Own Little Corner
Keep the Candle Burning
Nowhere Man
Somewhere Over the Rainbow
Voice of Truth
Yesterday

Senior High Choir Accompaniment Track Library. We have some tracks available for student use at no charge. Students can just sign out the CD and return it when they are finished with the solo performance.

For those who can't find an accompaniment for their song, we have a machine that can SOMETIMES pull off the lead vocal line. Don't rely on this because many times it doesn't work. If you can't find an accompaniment for your song selection, come see Mr. Rowsey-Bring the original artist CD, and we'll try the machine. It takes about 2 minutes, but *do this before Spring Break!!*

You can't find the song you want anywhere. Choose another song.

The singing range of the song is too high or too low. Try to rearrange some of the notes to fit in the chord structure of the song. We will be available before/after school or at lunchtime to help you. We can also use the pitch control on our Superscope machine to make a copy of your track in a higher/lower key. Just come talk to us about it.

Track has background vocals on it. As long as the track doesn't have the lead vocal it's no problem. Just rehearse so that you match the background vocals not only with pitch but entrances/releases/style as well.

You want a friend or relative to accompany you on the piano, guitar or other instrument. No problem. A schedule will be posted so you can plan the day and approximate time with an accompanist. Please make sure that your accompanist can play the piano part, as we will be checking by April 13th. A poor accompanist can pull your grade down. Using an accompanist can be more complicated because you have to have several rehearsals to prepare for the performance.

Content of song. Not only do we want to avoid inappropriate words, but we also want to avoid inappropriate subject matter. There is little gray area here. When in doubt, *ask*.

****ASSIGNMENT** (This assignment is worth 100 points):** To ensure that students are not waiting until the last minute to make their song selections and procure their accompaniment we require proof well before their performance date. *By Friday April 13th, students will bring their accompaniment track to school (either on CD, tape or an MP3 player), or verify their accompanist/self can fluently play their solo, so students can successfully prepare.*

Under normal circumstances, students will not be allowed to change their song choice after the deadline, or they will lose The Assignment 100 points. In some rare instances, however, we do allow changes that are related to voice change issues. We do this so that students make a careful, informed selection well before their performance date.

CHECKLIST FOR PERFORMANCE (see attached grade sheets)

Pitch, Tone Quality

Diction -appropriate for style of song and singing on mic.

Facial expressions - practice in front of a mirror.

Dress nicely. You are not only presenting your vocal accomplishment but you are also presenting you as a person too.

Song is memorized.

Dynamics.

Entrances and releases.

Ensemble (with background vocals)

Poise

It will help you if you do several (*at least* 3 or more) practice performances in front of people that make you a little nervous--such as family and friends--before your solo day. Ask them for constructive criticism to help improve your presentation.

Please remember to maintain your composure if you have a memory lapse or something unexpected happens. You aren't graded down much for little mistakes, but your grade is greatly affected by how you deal with setbacks. Smile and keep going!

(For Treble Choir or Male Chorus Only): You may sing one of our choral pieces if you have one on a part, each person correctly singing his or her own part.