



The Audition & Judging Process

THE AUDITION PROCESS

Round 1 (Video Auditions): April 1 – June 30, 2024

- Eligible students should upload their video audition, singing a song of their choice, online (students will likely use the same performance piece throughout the competition, subject to the sole discretion of the artistic director).
- Videos should be three (3) minutes max.
- Piano accompaniment, personal instrument usage or a capella are preferred, but recorded accompaniment is allowed.
- Please avoid singing any of the following songs from last year:
What You'd Call a Dream (Diamonds), *A Song For You* (Donny Hathaway), *Fly, Fly Away* (Catch Me If You Can), *Maybe This Time* (Cabaret), *When I Sing in My Car* (Joey Contreras), *Where Am I Now* (Lysistrata Jones), *A New Life* (Jekyll and Hyde), *Lost in the Brass* (Band Geeks), *The Death of a Bachelor* (Brendon Urie), *Vampire* (Olivia Rodrigo), and *I Can't Stand Still* (Footloose).
- A group of recognized music professionals will judge the online submissions and select students to advance to the next round.

Round 2 (Virtual Auditions): Saturday/Sunday – July 13 and 14, 2024

- **Please check your email for your Round 2 next step emails**, including your spam folders
- Students will perform LIVE (via Zoom) in front of a panel of judges. The top 25 students will advance to the Semifinals.

Round 3 (Semifinals): July 28, 2024

- Students will be divided into two groups and perform their songs live in front of a panel of judges at the Mandel JCC.
- Students will also have a short interview as part of the process.
- Judges will select the top 10 students and two alternates to perform during The Finals.

Finalist Rehearsal Week: September 16-21, 2024 (Times TBD)

- Upon request, religious accommodations will be considered by our Artistic Director.

The Finals: September 22, 2024

- The top 10 students and the two alternates will perform live on stage at Playhouse Square.
- The students will have musical accompaniment during their solo performance.
- The top four students selected by the judges will be asked to perform a final song at The Finals.

THE JUDGING PROCESS

Contestants will be judged by accomplished, music professionals representing Northeast Ohio. The judges are qualified in a wide variety of musical genres including, but not limited to, pop, R&B, classical, jazz and musical theater.

For Rounds 1 and 2, as well as the Semifinals, a panel of judges will choose the students who will advance.

At The Finals, celebrity judges will select the top four students who will perform a second time. The audience, in conjunction with the judges, will then select the order of the winners.

