



CMT'S AUDITION AND CALLBACK FAQs FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

We're so thrilled you're auditioning at CMT! We hope this information will answer any questions you might have and help make your audition a success!

BEFORE THE AUDITION

- **WHAT TO BRING:** Your audition music in a binder and a water-bottle.
- **WHAT TO WEAR:** Comfortable clothes and jazz or tennis shoes (no flip flops, open toes, or boots). Make sure you can move freely. There is no need to purchase dance shoes just for an audition. Do not dress like a character from the show as it limits how the directors see you. If you receive a callback, it is sometimes helpful to wear the same outfit, so the directors remember you!
- **WHAT KIND OF SONG TO SING:** Choose a song in the style of the show, but not from the show. For example, if you're auditioning for The King & I, something by Rogers & Hammerstein would be appropriate. If the show were Chicago, something that is more of a jazz or big band style would be best. Have 16 bars ready from any section of your song that shows off your abilities best. For those who are not familiar with sheet music, this is typically about 2 pages. Don't worry if the director cuts you off early, sometimes that is necessary to get through lots of people in a short time. Beginners, feel free to sing happy birthday if you do not have music prepared.
- **WHERE TO GET SHEET MUSIC:** We recommend Musicnotes.com. Be sure you select a piece with vocals and piano.

AT THE AUDITION:

- **HOW LONG DOES IS THE AUDITION PROCESS:** It depends on the number of kids auditioning and the length of the dance component. Allow about one hour.
- **CAN PARENTS WATCH:** No, CMT's audition process, rehearsal and classes are closed to all but actors and staff. If special circumstances apply, reach out at info@cmtworks.org.
- **WHAT IS A CALLBACK:** A callback is the second round of auditions in which the creative team has people sing a little more and read lines from the show.
- **HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A CALLBACK:** You may or may not be given music and/or lines to study. You should familiarize yourself with the show and it's music. YouTube is a good resource. Be sure you find the same version of the show so that you know it is correct. Some Jr. shows may not have the same music or be in the same key as the full Broadway version.
- **WHAT IF I DON'T GET A CALLBACK:** Don't worry! Not everyone gets called back, and this does not mean you didn't do great or that you are not in the cast! Many times, your audition was all the director needed to know exactly what part would be perfect for you. Lead roles can be cast directly from the first audition without the need for a callback. So rest assured **you are in the cast!**

AFTER THE AUDITION AND CALLBACK:

- **WHEN AND WHERE IS THE CAST LISTS POSTED:** The cast list is posted on the website by 6 pm on the Thursday after callbacks.
- **WHAT IF I DID NOT GET THE PART I WAS HOPING FOR:** Accept it gracefully, auditions are part of the learning experience. In the performance world, people hear "no" more frequently than they hear "yes." Many factors go into the casting process, including, but not limited to, vocal ability, character fit, dance experience, appearance, height, general look, build, demeanor, and relation to other cast parts. Sometimes the best vocal audition is not necessarily a "fit" for the part. Rest assured that you will have a great experience and build your resume for the next show. Remember, the ensemble is just as integral as the lead roles to the show. Ensemble cast are typically in more numbers and have more stage time than lead roles, which amounts to more and more experience for you to build on. Most importantly, always have fun!