

Preparing Music for Your Accompanist

In order to help your college voice auditions go smoothly and learn the first rule of how to treat your pianists well, please take a few minutes to prepare your audition music properly.

If you are bringing **printed music**, see that pages your pianist will be playing from are uncluttered with markings that are not important to your pianist (i.e. erase all technical instructions, language notes, etc.). Breath marks, tempo changes and cuts *should* remain clearly marked. Mark your songs' or arias' locations with paper clips or sticky notes. Also, make sure that the books' spines are well "broken" and that they will stay open on the piano's music rack without any risk of falling off during your performance. Be sure that your name, address and cell number is written in your books, in case it is misplaced.

If you will be using **photocopies** of your music, be sure that your copies are complete: check to see that *all* the piano notes on the bottom, top and sides are completely copied. Again, make clean copies, without extraneous markings (see above) but do include your breath marks, tempo changes and cuts you may be taking. Pianists prefer that you copy the music one-sided and tape (no staples!) the sheets back-to-back at the corners. Place the odd-numbered page numbers on the right hand side, which will retain the order as printed in the original music and will facilitate page turns. (If your song/aria is just 2 pages, then it is fine to have them in the open position, that is, so that a page turn isn't necessary.) Double-check to make sure your pages are taped together in correct order! Punch holes in your prepared copies and place in a 3-ring binder that is used only for your auditions. Please don't be tempted to put the copies in clear plastic sleeves, which don't allow further markings by your pianist, and often cause glare from lighting. Again, be sure to put your name, address and cell number in the binder in case you misplace it.