

National Choral School audition preparation – FOSV 2020

Audition requirements:

- You will need to sing your chosen song or excerpt of a song lasting up to two minutes from memory.
- Your song may be performed with or without live accompaniment (if required, you must provide your own accompanist). Recorded accompaniments will not be permitted.
- Please do not sing a song you have sung previously for a Gondwana audition.
- You will also be given a short aural test including melodic memory, part singing and sight singing
- Practice materials based on previous years' tests can be found on the [Gondwana Choirs website](#)

The auditions will be short and focused on obtaining relevant information about the applicant as quickly as possible. Assessment will be based upon the following categories - intonation, rhythm, musicality and emotional intensity, voice blend potential, melodic memory hearing upper and lower notes, part singing, enthusiasm and focus.

Handy Tips to Prepare for a National Choral School Audition

1. Get there in good time, rushing in at the last minute can add to nerves
2. Sing daily so that your voice is strong. This adds to your confidence too.
3. Wear comfortable clothes, and make sure you have eaten enough. Bring a water bottle!
4. Always give yourself plenty of time to learn your audition material.
5. Good luck! The more you can audition the easier it gets.

Preparing to sing (not only in a singing audition)

1. Breathe in through the nose and out through the mouth. This gives the air a chance to warm and moisturise before hitting your larynx and lungs.
2. Do not lose body heat. 70-80% of body heat-loss happens through the neck and head so wear a hat and scarf even in mildly cool weather. This helps keep your vocal muscles warm.
3. Drink plenty of water. Both outside cold air and indoor heating and cooling systems can be very drying on the voice. If your throat is dry keep the fluids up, take a long warm shower (or even better a visit to a steam room) and do not talk. This will reduce any swelling to the vocal chords.
4. A warm drink will help warm areas around the larynx, but remember that caffeine is a diuretic and can dry you out.
5. Warm up wisely. It's advisable to begin every day with some humming and light vocal exercises (it's like stretching muscles before a gym workout). Ask your singing teacher or vocal coach to record a vocal warm up tailored to your needs.

Singing in public

1. Choose the right song and make it work. In order to connect with your audience you're going to need to connect with the song itself. Be sure to select something that you enjoy singing, and equally important – understand what the song is about. The next layer to add is your own interpretation to the song and what exactly it is you want to say.
2. Posture and body language. Remember that your posture can increase or decrease the quality of your vocal production and your body language (especially your facial expressions) enhances the story you want to tell, so use these to your advantage. If you are not sure how you come across when you sing, then this is something to work on with your vocal coach and then practise in front of the mirror and family and friends! It's all part of the performance. Keep your shoulders down and relax your jaw and breathe!