HELPFUL HINTS FOR YOUR SUCCESSFUL FSSA AUDITION

AUDITION DAY:
1. Get here early
2. Eat a good breakfast or bring something to eat (you may be waiting a while)
3. Bring Water!!!
4. Warm up before you arrive, sing in the shower, hum in line and hum in the holding areas. There are no warm up rooms provided so please keep your voice warmed up by humming.
5. You will be in holding rooms for most of the day. The actual auditions takes about 30 minutes. We will take you into the vocal audition room in groups of 10 and you will sing in front of those groups.

WHAT TO SING. One of the following as a solo:
   a. Any CLASSICAL art song, aria or classically arranged spiritual or folk ballad. (You can consult the NYSSMA manual if you want to get ideas.)
   b. A song from a Broadway musical, preferably a “legit” song. Often students want to bring in the most current, newly composed or obscure, off Broadway selections. This is often done to ensure that no one else is singing your piece, however, it is not recommended. If we are not as familiar with the piece it may adversely affect your audition. There are now seven volumes of “The Singer’s Musical Theater Anthology” which is the recommended reference to make your Musical Theater selection.
   c. Everyone will be singing “The Star Spangled Banner” in Bb. You will sing it in a group but you may choose to sing this as your solo selection if you don’t have another song to sing.

YOUR SHEET MUSIC
   a. You MUST bring your own sheet music for your solo selection. NO ONE WILL SING ACAPELLA.
   b. Your sheet music music will be played as it is; it will NOT BE TRANSPOSED FOR YOU ON THE SPOT. So please bring your sheet music in your key
   c. If you piece is not memorized you must bring two copies, you will not be allowed to sing looking over the accompanist’s shoulder.
   d. Make sure that your sheet music is complete. It must have a staff for the piano accompaniment AND a staff for the vocal line. It has to have both a piano part and a voice part or you will sing the “Star Spangled Banner” in Bb as your solo piece.
   e. Make sure your music is in good reading order: the pages must be in order, it music be a good copy and should be in a binder (please no plastic coverings on music, it can create a glare for the accompanist)
   f. Please do not bring jazz lead sheets or guitar music without a piano part and no hand written music.
   g. Many students download their music from the internet. Please make sure that it has all of the above required elements.

PREPARING YOUR AUDITION PIECE
   a. Singing from memory is best, but if you don’t have it memorized you must bring a copy of your music for the accompanist and for yourself.
   b. We won’t have time to hear everyone’s entire song so prepare about a minute of your favorite part. Occasionally we will want to hear another part of the song so it is always best to know the whole song.
   c. If you choose to sing The Star Spangled Banner as your solo audition please just sing it straight and not with a lot of riffing. We DO want to hear your upper range (head voice for ladies). We will hear you sing in Bb Major. We only occasionally change the key for changing male voices, but we DO NOT take key requests.