

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE GROUP AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

The Special Performance Group 1 is generally limited to 33 students. Although the number may vary depending on the number of eligible students available. Students at times are also added to the group as understudies. The group is optimally:

- **12 vocalists**
- **9 Guitarists**
- **4 Bassists**
- **4 Keyboardists**
- **4 Drummers/Percussionists**

(Students auditioning on multiple instruments and passing the auditions on both for the same group may be counted twice)

To Be Eligible to Audition Students Must:

1. Be a currently enrolled students
2. Have reaching the Intermediate Level on the Instrument they are auditioning on
3. Have performed in a minimum of 4 student showcases
4. Have participated for a year in the Tech Monkey Program and worked as a stage tech at two Major Performances.
5. Have taken the Stagecraft Class
6. Have the approval of their private lesson instructor

The Audition

Auditioning Students will...:

- ✓ Have a five minute audition slot
- ✓ Perform one piece, or excerpt of a piece, solo or with an accompanist (tracks are permitted – however they must be music minus one, meaning the auditioning performers part is not on the track). The piece or excerpt may not exceed 3:30.
- ✓ Be prepared to perform, move around and show the panel what they've got
- ✓ Be prepared to answer questions about their performance experience and goals

Your audition may be videotaped for further review.

Appropriate Pieces for Auditions

The audition piece should be a song or excerpt from a song that best demonstrates your technical and musical abilities on your instrument. Please consult your private lesson teacher. Although not required, choosing a song appropriate to the themes of that years performances may be helpful

Singers – We perform predominantly rock and pop music which requires a strong chest voice, it would be best to choose a piece that demonstrates your ability to belt. You may of course change the key to showcase your voice in its best range. Also you may be asked to sing harmonies with another singer. **All singers must know their vocal range.**

Guitar/Keyboards – If you have a solo piece of music you can perform that's great. If you do not, choose a song with a guitar or keyboard part that best demonstrates your technical level and musicality. Also, be prepared to be tested on your knowledge of chords and knowledge of performing common styles (R&B, Funk, Rock, Jazz and Blues)

Bass and Drums - If you have a solo piece of music you can perform that's great. If you do not, choose a song with a drum or bass part that best demonstrates your technical level and musicality. Also, be prepared to be tested on your knowledge of common grooves in the following styles, R&B, Funk, Rock, Jazz and Blues.

Auditioning and the Criteria Used for the Evaluation

Auditions can be scary, especially if you don't know what the people evaluating you are looking for. In our case, we are looking for students with great attitudes, who are disciplined team players and hardworking. Of course they also need to have reached a certain technical level, have a good tone and a talent or at least obvious potential for making music. We evaluated that using ratings and areas below.

Auditions: Evaluation Criteria

All students will be evaluated using the following criteria. When you receive your scores, take them seriously, although all scores are subjective, they point to areas that you excel in, and possibly more importantly, point out areas that you need more work in.

Ratings

The ratings are 1-10, with 5 being average, 1 being no ability and 10 being perfect (we don't give out many 10's). To take part in this program we are looking for students to score a minimum of a 70, and a 7 or above in the indicated* areas. Of course it's a competitive audition meaning those with the highest scores will get the top spots on each instrument.

Areas Evaluated

Part Knowledge – The ability to accurately perform the songs melody, harmony and rhythms

Form – Knowledge of the length and order of the various sections of the piece

***Intonation** – Pitch accuracy during the performance of the pieces melodies and harmony (*Drummers: the ability to accurately hit the correct striking surface of your drums/cymbals*)

***Tone** - The natural sound quality of the student on their instrument

Articulation – The ability to produce and manipulate the timbre and envelope of a sound.

Time – The ability to hold a given tempo through the performance of a piece

Groove – The ability to place a part rhythmically in sync with the other parts being played

***Musicality** – The ability to manipulate the elements of music (melody, harmony and rhythm, along with articulation and dynamics) in a way that conveys the beauty and emotional content of a piece of music.

Performance – The ability to combine all of the elements together into a compelling and cohesive presentation of the piece.

Presence – The performer's physical and emotional presence in the performance of the piece