

OSM Prospective Students Voice Auditions

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS
THE HUMANITIES
ODEION SCHOOL OF MUSIC

General information

- All applicants for music programmes will need to partake in the audition/selection process.
- ***IMPORTANT:*** *Vocal studies as part of programmes of the OSM are focused mainly on Western Art Music (classical music, opera, lieder) and applicants will be evaluated in terms of an ability to complete a programme with this focus successfully.*
- Due to COVID-19, auditions will be mainly facilitated through videos and other electronic means. Also, pieces may be recorded without accompaniment.
- More information will be provided in the sections to follow.

What should be included in the video audition?

Technical work

Vocal Exercises Instructions (please read carefully):

We have recorded and uploaded demos of how to sing nine vocal exercises on the given vowels and the specific notes; please record your performance of these exercises, and attach them as part of your audition material. All voice types must please sing and record exercises 1 – 5 (broken triads). Exercises 6 and 7 (arpeggios) are for low male and female voices, and exercises 8 and 9 for high male and female voices. In other words, basses, baritones, altos and mezzo-sopranos are to record exercises 6 and 7. Tenors and sopranos are to record exercises 8 and 9.

You may, however, record all of exercises 6 – 9 (low and high voices) if your vocal capabilities allow for this. In the demonstration of all exercises, you will notice that an example is given for male voice, followed by an example for female voice (which lies an octave higher than the male voice).

Please note that all exercises are counted in with “one and two and...” for you to prepare your breath. On the count of three, you will start singing. We have also uploaded the “piano only” version of exercises 1 – 9. You can use these to record yourself while singing with the piano on our recording.

Very important is that you sing all exercises as legato as possible; this means that you should try to sustain the sound through all notes in order to have a vocal line without breaks in between.

Good luck and best regards

Mr Albertus Engelbrecht

Coordinator of Vocal Studies

Herewith the links to the recordings (please contact the OSM if you wish to receive this list or

MP3 recordings thereof):

Exercises with voice examples

Nr 1 - <https://youtu.be/Y5C5Z9mQM0c>

Nr 2 - <https://youtu.be/NQO5JcCYbL4>

Nr 3 - <https://youtu.be/WNc94kGsZNO>

Nr 4 - <https://youtu.be/q13iMsqFv-w>

Nr 5 - <https://youtu.be/XP8EPvAfcik>

Nr 6 - <https://youtu.be/rrifS9ZnRDY>

Nr 7 - <https://youtu.be/VjOluje4gf0>

Nr 8 - <https://youtu.be/nnrMFm9t-xl>

Nr 9 - <https://youtu.be/2Vq6-6P24Tg>

Exercises played on the piano

Nr 1 - https://youtu.be/Hj3Gjk-_DLg

Nr 2 - <https://youtu.be/aY5mzUnuSNE>

Nr 3 - https://youtu.be/7_Hle2055k4

Nr 4 - <https://youtu.be/SfGXh8iHynw>

Nr 5 - <https://youtu.be/xVS03N54wAs>

Nr 6 - <https://youtu.be/SsaA51rcAoo>

Nr 7 - <https://youtu.be/A2q8qvv82hw>

Nr 8 - <https://youtu.be/Kb9iX1mQTo0>

Nr 9 - <https://youtu.be/73E4tPODDkE>

Please select the appropriate programme to view specific audition requirements. *

Songs for Higher Certificate in Music Performance:

One art song / opera aria or one song by an African song

Songs for Diploma in Music

- Two contrasting art songs / opera arias. One song may be by an African composer (or traditional).
- One quick study will be assigned to you on application. Please notify Mrs Williams (at WilliamsCJ@ufs.ac.za) on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.

Songs for BMus or BA Music qualifications

- Two contrasting art songs / opera arias. One song may be by an African composer (or traditional).
- One quick study will be assigned to you on application. Please notify Mrs Williams (at WilliamsCJ@ufs.ac.za) on which date you intend to submit your audition to receive the quick study in time.

How should videos be recorded?

Video audition guidelines:

1. Attempt to record your video in a noise-free environment with a dry acoustic (meaning that there is no echo).
2. The area should be well-lit but not contain any background lights.
3. Do not stand too close to the microphone: keep the recording device a minimum distance of 30cm away from you.
4. Do not edit your video, except for trimming.
5. Clearly announce your name, and the composer and piece you are playing before you sing.
6. Once you have completed your share your clips with the Odeion School of Music through the platforms mentioned at the end of this form.
7. Ensure that you are in the image of the video.
8. Sing music that best represents your capability.

How can videos be submitted?

The following are options to send audition videos to the OSM:

1. Upload your video/s to Youtube and send the link to WilliamsCJ@ufs.ac.za. Ensure that your full names are used in the subject line.
2. Using Cloud platforms sometimes present problems for downloading. If you wish to use such a platform, please send it to and also follow up on your submission via email or telephone number

If you experience any problems, please contact Mrs Williams at WilliamsCJ@ufs.ac.za or 051 401 9924.