

Tips for Selecting & Preparing Audition Sheet Music

1. Make sure the music come from a piano/score.

Always bring a copy from a piano/vocal score. Piano/vocals have the singer's line on the top and a two-handed piano accompaniment with treble and bass clefs underneath. A "chart" or "leadsheet" that only has a vocal line with chord symbols above it isn't acceptable for a musical theatre audition.

Individually-published versions of the songs are best. Full scores can be complicated and hard to read. **The Singer Pro editions on musicnotes.com are a great resource, as are most compilation books.**

2. Mark your start point and end point.

Use brackets to signify where you're starting, and close the brackets at the point where you're stopping. Write "Start" and "Stop" above the brackets, like this:

The image shows a musical score for the song "Because the Night" by Patti Smith. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on top and a piano accompaniment on the bottom. The piano accompaniment is marked "heavily accented". Chord symbols (Bm, Em/G, G, A) are written above the vocal line. The lyrics are: "Be-cause the night be - longs to lov-ers, be-cause the night be - longs to _ _ lust . _" and "Be-cause the night be - longs to lov-ers, be-cause the night be - longs to _ _ us . _". A large teal bracket on the left side of the first system is labeled "Start" above it. A large teal bracket on the right side of the second system is labeled "End" above it.

3. Clearly X out any music you don't want to be played.

Mark an X cleanly and boldly through any music you don't want the accompanist to play.

4. Make sure the title, show, and tempo are clearly written on the page.

If your cut isn't from the beginning of the song, you'll need to handwrite the name of the song, the show it is from, the tempo marking, and the time signature. Remember, the tempo might not be what it was at the top of the song; look for the most recent tempo marking.