

Guidelines for Plymouth North High School

A Cappella Auditions

Solo Auditions

Solo auditions will be held Tuesday, May 28th and Wednesday, May 29th, in the PNHS chorus room (142A). Callbacks will be held on Friday, May 31st, also at PNHS. Students should sign up for an audition time slot at www.pnhs-sings.com. There will be a bus to transport PCIS students to PNHS on the 28th and on the 31st, but they will need to arrange their own ride home. Students are advised to schedule their audition on a day when other activities will not conflict.

Copies of the rubric and attendance policy are provided on www.pnhs-sings.com. Copies will also be provided at the auditions, but some students opt to write or type their essay at home and bring it with them to the auditions.

On your audition sheet, you will be asked to check off which groups you would like to be considered for: Northern Lights (mixed)/TBD all-female group, Girl Treble (all-female), Menergy (all-male).

1. Solo Selection

Students are encouraged to choose a song from a contemporary popular genre – i.e. pop, rock, R&B, hip hop, etc. While all genres are permitted, students would be smart to audition on a song that the group might conceivably sing.

Students should prepare one verse and one chorus from their chosen song. They should be prepared to sing it a cappella. They may use the piano or a pitch pipe to find their starting pitch if they so desire.

2. Pitch Matching

Each pattern will be played twice on the piano. Students will sing them back on solfege or on a neutral syllable. They will have two chances to sing each pattern correctly – intonation counts. Feel free to take your time.

Some students may also be asked to sing a vocal exercise to check for low range, as 'bass notes' are frequently not featured enough in solos! This range check will have NO effect on score!

3. Vocal Percussion

Students should prepare a vocal percussion groove which they will perform with a metronome at a tempo of their choosing. After a few measures, the metronome will be turned off while the student continues to perform the pattern. Students will be evaluated on rhythmic consistency, believability of drum sounds, and volume. Extra points will be awarded for especially creative work.

4. Sight Singing

Students will be given a short melody to sing from sight in the audition. Students will be given 30 seconds to look over the excerpt, and up to two chances to sing it as correctly as possible. The melody will be in 4/4 time, start and end on Do, and include stepwise movement, leaps within the tonic triad (Do, Mi and Sol), and rhythms as short as eighth notes. Students will choose their own tempo and establish their own tonality (find their own 'Do').

5. History/Qualifications

Students will be evaluated on their history as a contributing member of an ensemble, either by Mr. Grossman, or by another music teacher, if applicable. If you have never had Mr. Grossman as a teacher, please list the name of a music teacher you have had on your audition sheet before your audition.

6. Personal Statement

Please give this thoughtful consideration. Be sure to answer all parts of the questions, but you need not answer questions that haven't been asked. (This is not the place to wax poetic about the depth of one's desire to sing a cappella.)

Presentation and first impressions are key to any performing group – thus, spelling, grammar, and neatness count. This needs to be handed in directly to Mr. Grossman at your audition.

Northern Lights/TBD Group Callbacks

On the evening of May 29th, a list of students called back for Northern Lights and the new all-female group will be posted on www.pnhs-sings.com. Students called back will be sent a PDF and learning tracks of an arrangement to learn for callbacks on May 31st at 3:15pm. At callbacks, students will work on the distributed arrangement in a rehearsal setting, and perform it in small groups as well. There will be a bus to transport PCIS students to North for callbacks. It's hard to predict how long callbacks will take, but we will keep you updated and give opportunities to keep families/rides home updated as well.