



CENTENNIAL SEASON AUDITION GUIDE

Note: This guide is designed for all ages and includes information for parents/guardians of young auditioners

BEFORE THE AUDITION:

- How do I find Grand Rapids Civic Theatre auditions dates, character descriptions, age range, and audition expectations?
 - On our Civic Audition Page: <https://www.grct.org/audition/>
 - Civic Social Media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)
 - Audition notices, registration link, and character descriptions are posted approximately 4-6 weeks before the initial audition date.
- Read ALL links associated with the audition you are interested in carefully.
 - **Audition Dates/Times:** Be sure that you can make the audition and callback dates/times.
 - **Character Descriptions:** Review the character descriptions to get an idea of where you might fit for age, vocal range, gender identity, and more.
 - **Proposed Rehearsal Schedule:** It is VITAL that you review this schedule in detail. It is very possible that you will not be called on each day of rehearsal, but the production team needs to realistically know what to expect when planning the formal schedule.
 - Be HONEST about your conflicts. Teams are very willing to work with you, but you do NOT want to get a reputation for being dishonest about conflicts or submitting conflicts after getting a role.
 - Punctuality is incredibly important in the theatre world! Be sure that you can arrive to rehearsals ON TIME.
- Sign up for your audition via Ludus; this link will be on the [grct.org/audition](https://www.grct.org/audition) page!
 - We recommend signing up EARLY. Spots fill quickly for certain shows, and you don't want to miss out on this opportunity!
 - Take your time entering your information and triple check that everything is accurate BEFORE submitting.
- How do I prepare for my **VOCAL audition**?
 - Most musicals will ask that you prepare 16-32 bars of sheet music to bring with you to the audition. Choose a song that you love to sing and know well, that you can sing even on not your best day.
 - Try to stick to the show "type". This might mean it's more of a pop song, Disney, classic Broadway, rock, etc. The audition notice for your specific show may provide additional guidance.

- Print the sheet music and **DOUBLE CHECK** the sheet music has piano accompaniment (Some have vocals only).
 - Clearly mark where the **PIANO** should start and stop.
 - Clearly mark where the **VOCALS** will start and stop.
 - Put the sheet music in a 3 ring binder.
- We **HIGHLY** recommend that you find someone to play the sheet music for you prior to the audition (pianist friend, teacher, school, church, etc.). This will also let you check the **KEY** of the song.
 - Accompanists will typically ask you to talk them through the sheet music! You should point out where to stop and start and how fast you would like to go. You can do this by singing a little for them.
- **Accompanist Resources:**
 - [PlayScore](#)
 - Sheet Music Scanner App
 - YouTube Karaoke Tracks - These are not the most reliable but are an option to practice as long as you check the key!
- Practice starting your audition. This would mean getting out of your chair, going to stand at the center of the room, introducing yourself and sharing the name of the song you are singing (this is called a “slate”),, taking a deep breath to recenter, and giving the accompanist a nod to start.
- Practice what to do if you mess up! You can always ask to restart. This could be due to forgetting the words, missing the entrance with the piano, or just feeling nervous! It happens, and that’s okay.
- How do I prepare for my **DANCE audition**?
 - Approximately **TWO** weeks before the in-person audition, there is usually a choreography video for auditionees to review on grct.org/audition. We **HIGHLY** recommend that you practice with this video at home and get comfortable with the steps.
 - You may learn some choreography in-person, as well!
 - As you practice, you will want to learn the steps and arm movements, but the team will **ALSO** be looking for you to smile or be a character, show confidence, and recover if you mess up!
- Get familiar with the show, if you can.
 - If there is a movie version, watch it! Note that it may vary from the stage version.
 - Listen to the cast recording(s) – Spotify, YouTube, Amazon, etc.
 - Callbacks typically involve singing, dancing, and reading from the show itself! The more familiar you are with **ALL** parts of the show, the better prepared you will be in a callback setting.

- **Resume/Headshot:**
 - These are **OPTIONAL** to bring to an audition, but they are very helpful for the team if you have training (voice lessons, dance classes, etc.) or prior theatre experience. If you'd like to create a resume and you haven't previously, [HERE](#) is a great template option.
 - **Headshot:** You do **NOT** need a formal headshot. Any photo from the chest and up that shows your face clearly is helpful for the team to remember what you look like!

DAY OF THE AUDITION

- What should I **WEAR** to an audition?
 - Wear something that makes you comfortable! Be prepared to move.
 - Wear shoes that cover the whole foot **OR** bring shoes to dance in.
 - We recommend bringing layers in case you get chilly or warm during the audition!
- What should I **BRING** to the audition?
 - Water bottle!
 - Printed sheet music in a three ring binder and clearly marked.
 - Dance shoes, if you have them.
 - Resume/headshot, if you have them.
 - Any additional conflicts or changes to your initial audition form to tell the volunteers at the front desk.
 - Parents: Bring something to do while you wait! This could be a book, computer, etc. Note that parents do not enter the room with their students.
- **Arrival Tips:**
 - Leave your home **EARLY**. We recommend arriving 15-20 minutes prior to your audition time, but you should leave yourself time to deal with traffic, find parking, and walk to the theatre.
 - Enter the main lobby doors on Library Street!
 - Check in at the main desk in the lobby. Be kind, considerate and polite to those working! They are taking notes for the production team and **WILL** write down if someone is challenging during the check in and waiting process.
 - Hang out in the lobby until the audition time. When it's close to your audition time, keep an ear out for your name to be called by the stage manager or volunteers in the lobby! You will line up with the rest of your group and head to the audition room together.
- **In the Audition Room:**
 - Be kind and supportive of other auditionees! Production teams notice who is smiling at others, giving them compliments or high fives, and being an excellent teammate.
 - Take risks and show confidence!
 - Be polite to the accompanist and production team.

- **Dismissal Tips:**

- Be sure to say THANK YOU to folks. This could be the accompanist, production team, volunteers, or other auditionees.
- Check that you have all your belongings before you leave!

AFTER THE AUDITION

- What does the **CALLBACK** process look like?
 - After ALL auditions are complete, keep an eye on your email! Callbacks are usually sent to the email(s) that you provided and include WHEN to arrive at the callback audition, which role(s) you are being called back for, and what to prepare.
 - If we send a callback email and DON'T hear back from you, we will call you. We encourage you to reply to the email in a timely fashion, though.
 - Callbacks are a fairly QUICK turnaround. You will want to use the callback email as a guide to prepare any songs, sides/scenes, or choreography that are sent to you.
 - Callbacks are a SMALL group compared to the full auditionees. The cast usually, but not ALWAYS, comes from the callback group.

WHAT HAPPENS WITH CASTING?

- **What does the production team look for?**
 - Voice type/suitability: Can you sing the roles? Is it the "sound" we are looking for?
 - Fit: ages, family looks, etc.
 - Energy/Chemistry: Do the actors give off the energy that we want from this character and interact well with other actors?
 - Movement, when applicable
 - Believability in acting: Are they just saying the words, or do you BELIEVE that they are feeling these feelings?
 - Attitude/demeanor:
 - During auditions - are they kind, courageous, polite, thoughtful, punctual, prepared, etc.
 - General work ethic! If team members know that you have worked with other organizations and individuals in their network, they will frequently reach out and ask how you are to work with! This means attitude, respect, conflicts, collaboration, reliability, and more.
 - Stage Presence!
 - Conflicts: The team will take conflicts into account! We expect folks to be honest and adding conflicts after being cast may cause you to not be cast in the future. However, if the team really wants you for a role and you have conflicts - they will organize the rehearsal schedule accordingly to make it work.

- Casting is a PUZZLE. If you are NOT cast, it doesn't mean you aren't talented or that the team doesn't like you.
- **If you ARE cast:**
 - The production team will let you know when to expect a phone call if you are cast! It is not vital that you answer the phone; they will leave a message for you if you are busy!
 - You will receive a phone call offering you a role. If you are UNSURE about the role due to its size, conflicts, etc. - please be transparent with the individual who called you that you need time to think about it.
 - Thank the person on the phone!
 - AND CELEBRATE! As a reminder, you can tell your **inner circle** when you are cast. However, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre asks that you do NOT publicly announce your casting until it is shared on their social media pages.
 - **Social Media Reminder:** Auditionees and parents/guardians are encouraged to think carefully about what you post on social media (or say to others) following auditions whether you ARE or ARE NOT cast. The theatre community is SMALL, and the team typically does hear if someone is speaking negatively about other auditionees or something of that nature.
- **What if you are NOT cast?**
 - It's okay to be sad and mourn this opportunity! Take 24 hours to cry, be a little cranky, swear you're never auditioning again, or eat some ice cream.
 - THEN, talk about what's next! This could be classes, camps, other auditions, a voice teacher, choir, volunteer, see a show, etc.
 - Remember that all we can do is our best and it doesn't mean someone isn't "liked" or they aren't "talented."
 - Parents of students: please DO NOT instill the "Well, everyone who doesn't think you are perfect is ridiculous" mentality, because that's not going to help them if they decide to stick with theatre. It will just lead to being angry a LOT and doesn't take into the account the complexity of casting! This is a great opportunity to learn how to handle **disappointment**.
 - If your student is CONSISTENTLY not cast, we encourage you to seek out additional training with private voice lessons, dance classes, reach out for feedback, and continue to practice HOW to audition.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SUPPORT OF AUDITIONERS WHO ARE MINORS:

- Go through this document with your student in detail! We recommend breaking it up as it is a LOT of information to process.
- Through the process, be chill. Be what THEY need. Try not to put unnecessary pressure on your student.

- Don't make it a contest or a competition. MODEL TEAM WORK, COLLABORATION, KINDNESS!
 - Production teams will REGULARLY ask how it is to work with a family of a young artist. If you have a reputation for being kind, communicative, polite, respectful, and punctual - that will be communicated!
- Don't be afraid to ask questions at the table, but know that they will not have CASTING related answers.
- Do something fun after the audition – take their minds off of it!

CENTENNIAL AUDITION DATES: Times are subject to change, so we encourage you to check the grct.org/audition periodically! We may add more slots as needed.

- **Come From Away**
 - Auditions: Saturday, June from 11am-4pm
 - Callbacks: Monday, June 22 from 6-10pm
- **Dragons Love Tacos**
 - Auditions: Saturday, July 25 from 12-4 pm
 - Callbacks: Tuesday, July 28 from 6-9 pm
- **Annie/Dear Evan Hansen**
 - Auditions:
 - Friday, August 14 from 4-6 pm
 - Friday, August 14 from 7-10 pm
 - Saturday, August 15 from 10 am-6 pm
 - Sunday, August 16 from 2-6 pm
 - Callbacks: Saturday, August 22nd
 - Annie: 12-4 pm
 - Dear Evan Hansen: 6-10 pm
- **Finding Nemo**
 - Auditions: Sunday, December 6 from 5-9 pm
 - Callbacks: Monday, December 7 & Tuesday, December 8 from 6-9 pm
- **Our Town**
 - Auditions:
 - Friday, January 29 from 6-9 pm
 - Saturday, January 30 from 6-10 pm
 - Callbacks: Monday, Feb 1 from 6-10 pm
- **Les Miserables**
 - Auditions:
 - Wednesday, February 17 from 5-8 pm
 - Saturday, February 20 from 10 am-6 pm
 - Sunday, February 21 from 6-10 pm
 - Callbacks: Saturday, Feb 27 from 12-6 pm

Voice Teacher Recommendations

- [Grand Rapids Voice Collective](#)
 - Grand Rapids Voice Collective
 - 616-727-7464
 - heythere@grandrapidsvoicecollective.com
 - www.grandrapidsvoicecollective.com
 - Instagram: @grvoicecollective
 - The Voice Collective is an inclusive vocal community that creates a brave space for singers, where your voice is always heard and encouraged. GRVC was born from the desire to create a space for voice teachers & performers that changed the way we think about performance training; our focus is collaboration on all fronts, between our performers, collaborative musicians, and instructors.
- [K Voice Studio](#)
 - Kels Rezmer (he/him)
 - kvoicestudio@gmail.com
 - (616)283-9393
 - “I’m Kels Rezmer (he/him), a transmasculine voice teacher, performer, and advocate based in Grand Rapids, MI. With over 20 years of experience in vocal performance and instruction, I specialize in guiding singers and speakers through vocal development, especially during periods of change.”
- [The Music Studio of Emily Peterson](#)
 - [The Music Studio of Emily Peterson](#) (she/her)
 - emilypetemusic@gmail.com
 - emilypetersonmusic.com
 - availability: drop-ins by appointment only
 - *Emily is a board certified music therapist (MTBC) and holds a master's in adult education. An accompanist and former college music professor, she excels at audition preparation and musicianship for the singer. She regularly helps folks of all ages and abilities with discovering vocal freedom despite performance anxiety.*
- [DeBoer Voice Studio](#)
 - Hannah DeBoer - DeBoer Voice Studio
 - Deboervoicestudio@gmail.com
 - Deboervoicestudio.com

- “I typically work with students age 12 and up, but during the summers younger students (ages 8+) are welcome in for lessons. I am an adjunct voice instructor at Calvin University and specialize in teaching and singing both classical and musical theatre voice. My lessons are all 45 minutes long and I am enrolling right now for summer 2026 - my summer term is May 1 through August 30. Prospective students are welcome to email me with questions and lessons can be booked via my website.”