



# VOICE

**Anne Peckham**, Chair

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The Berklee placement audition helps us determine the appropriate level of vocal labs, ensembles, and private lessons that will best serve your unique musical progression and educational needs. It also helps show which areas may need more focus and preparation, increasing your chances of academic success.

## WHAT'S INVOLVED:

You will be rated on your sight-reading ability, overall vocal skill, improvisation, and rhythmic interpretation. You will also be asked a few questions about your musical experience and stylistic preferences.

## BRING A PREPARED PIECE:

It should be a memorized selection that best represents your stylistic preference, technique, and stage presence. A second song of a contrasting nature may be requested, if time permits.

## ACCOMPANIMENT:

You are welcome to bring a lead sheet or sheet music; if possible, an accompanist will be provided. However, you must come prepared with a backing track in mp3 or another readily playable audio format on your laptop or smartphone. Do not attempt to stream a backing track from the internet for your audition—it should be downloaded in advance. Although you may self-accompany on piano or acoustic guitar during the audition, this is recommended only if you are highly proficient on your accompanying instrument. First and foremost, we want to hear your voice.

## YOU MAY BE ASKED TO SING SELECTED EXAMPLES FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

- Standard vocalises or exercises: You will be asked to demonstrate your vocal range and technical facility via typical practice routines and simple scales.
- Ear training: You will be asked to attempt a few call-and-repeat patterns. The audition team will play a short melody on the piano, and you will then try to sing it back accurately.
- Improvisation: You may be asked to improvise within your chosen song, or over the following: a 12-bar blues progression, a pop-rock or pop/R&B-style groove, or over the head of a jazz tune.
- Sight-reading: Included in this packet are reading examples that you can practice before your audition. Depending on your sight-reading experience, these examples may be used in your audition. You likely will be asked to read additional song material that corresponds with the core curriculum of the Voice Department.

# VOICE READING EXAMPLES

## 1. BALLAD

CMA37 A-7 F6 CMA37 D-7 G7 E-7 A7 D-7 G7 C6

## 2. STRAIGHT 8TH FEEL

C6 A-7 D-7 G7 C6 CMA37 F6 D-7 G7 C6

## 3. COUNTRY WALTZ FEEL (SLOW SWING 8THS)

G6 E-7 A7 D7

B-7 E-7 A-7 D7 G6

## 4. BOSSA FEEL (STRAIGHT 8THS)

C6 A-7 D-7 G7

C C7 F6 E-7 A7 D7 G7 C