

Vocal Music

The Vocal Music Prime is centered on solo singing as a performing art. Healthy alignment, breath management, resonance, and communication in classical and Broadway styles of singing are developed. Students learn and perform song literature in English, Italian, German, and French.

BCPS Magnet Transportation Information: George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology (Central Area) Transportation is provided at community pick-up points for students from all areas of Baltimore County Public Schools.

Open House: Sunday, October 9, 2011 1- 3 p.m.

2012-2013 Assessment Guidelines

Assessment Date: Saturday, January 7, 2012 *Auditions by appointment*


Pre-Audition Workshop: Monday, October 17, 2011 6 – 8 p.m.
This workshop will give students an opportunity to experience a few of the many skills that the program offers. In addition, expectations for the audition will be discussed. **The workshop is optional and participation in the workshop is not considered during the application, audition or decision process. Students who wish to participate in the workshop MUST register.** The cost of the workshop is \$10. It is recommended that you sign up for the workshop during the Open House, but if you are unable to attend the Open House, you may register until **October 14, 2011** by emailing Evan Walker (ewalker@bcps.org) or calling (410) 887-2793.

Assessment reminders will be mailed to all applicants. Parents/Guardians of applicants who have NOT received notification at least five (5) days prior to the assessment date MUST contact the school to verify/schedule an appointment.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) should contact both the school and Magnet Office immediately if the applicant cannot attend or complete the scheduled assessment due to an unforeseen illness or emergency. Please be aware that assessments will not be rescheduled without documentation verifying the illness or emergency.

Inclement Weather Date: Saturday, January 28, 2012, at the previously scheduled appointment time

Inclement Weather: In the event that schools are closed due to inclement weather, weeknight magnet assessments will be postponed. Weekend magnet assessments will be postponed if the snow emergency plan is put into effect for Baltimore County. Postponed assessments will occur on the designated inclement weather date.

<p>Carver Center 938 York Road Towson, MD 21204</p>	<p><u>Directions to Carver Center:</u></p> <p>From West I-695:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merge onto I-695 N via the ramp to Towson • Take exit 26A toward Towson/York Rd • Turn left at West Rd (signs for Towson/York Rd) • Take the 1st right onto York Rd • Make a right at the next light, Fairmount Ave. <p>From East I-695:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the ramp onto I-695 W • Take exit 26 toward Towson • Turn left at MD-45/York Rd • Make a right at the next light, Fairmount Ave.
	
<p><u>Magnet Coordinator</u> Lori Turner (410) 887-2775/2793 lturner2@bcps.org</p>	

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Prior to the Audition Demonstration of Interest

This MUST be completed prior to coming to the audition.

Prior to the audition for Vocal Music, applicants must complete the following:

1. **Resume:** Students must bring a resume of their vocal and instrumental musical experience to the audition. Chorus, band, and orchestra experience should be listed along with any individual voice or instrumental instruction. Theatrical and/or dance experience and/or training should also be included.
2. **Written Response to a Vocal Performance:** Show your initiative in completing this assignment.
 - a. Attend a performance that showcases the solo voice. This can be a musical, an opera or a vocal recital. *Choirs and choruses are not acceptable.* Check the theatre and arts listings in area newspapers and at schools. Call the events offices of local colleges as well. Peabody is a rich resource.
 - b. Write a reaction to the performance of one or of several soloist(s) at the event.
 - Comment on the vocal challenges of their work. Focus on the character, and the goals that the character has as expressed in the work.
 - Comment on the vocal strengths of the performer or performers.
 - Attach the program or ticket stub to your written response!
3. **Musical Selections:** Candidates should prepare two contrasting pieces that show their vocal strengths. Initiative and commitment are essential in the GT Vocal Music program. It is expected that the student will take responsibility for finding his or her songs. Students will need to learn the audition songs they will sing, from memory, with piano accompaniment. The musical selections should not be songs the student already knows.

Both selections must be sung from memory and to the accompaniment of the piano. **Candidates must provide their own music.** An accompanist will be present. Taped accompaniments and a cappella singing are not acceptable.

Candidates must bring one set of music for the judges and one for the accompanist. Copies must be legible and in the key in which the selection is to be performed. If a photocopy is used for the accompanist, it must be placed in a three ring binder and must be able to rest upright on the piano rack without closing or falling off.

- a. One selection must be from a Broadway musical. This selection should be performed demonstrating legitimate vocal technique in the style of the composer, without “belting” or “crooning.” In addition, the Broadway song should be gender and age appropriate.

Any song in the following books, or songs like them, is an acceptable Broadway song:

Kids' Broadway Songbook. Hal Leonard, publisher.

The Singer's Musical Theatre Anthology (Soprano/Mezzo-soprano or Alto/Tenor/ Baritone or Bass), Hal Leonard, publisher.

Each voice classification has several volumes. Any song from any volume for the student's voice class is acceptable.

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- b. The second selection should be an art song sung in the original language or English. An art song is the setting of a poem for solo voice and piano. Broadway songs, choral songs, hymns, and popular songs are not art songs.

Any song in the following books, or songs like them, is an acceptable art song:

Easy Songs for Beginning Sopranos/Mezzo-sopranos. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.

Easy Songs for Beginning Altos/Tenors/Baritones. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.

Easy Songs for Beginning Basses. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.

First Book of Soprano Solos/Mezzo-soprano Solos. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.

First Book of Altos/Tenor/Baritone Solos. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.

First Book of Bass Solos. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.

Each voice classification has several volumes. Any song from any volume for the student's voice class is acceptable.

The song collection books referenced above are available at:

Music and Arts. 1940 York Road, Lutherville/Timonium. 410-453-0814

Menchey Music Services. 2444 Broad Avenue (off Padonia Road), Timonium. 410-543-6635

Stu's Music Shop. 723 Baltimore Boulevard, Westminster. 410-876-7585

www.amazon.com

www.abe.com

www.barnesandnoble.com, bn.com

On the Day of the Audition

The audition takes approximately 1 hour.

Auditions by Appointment ONLY

It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to:

- ensure that the applicant attends the assessment on the scheduled date and time.
- contact the schools if scheduled magnet assessment appointments conflict.

Failure to attend an assessment WILL result in disqualification.

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Registration Information

Applicants will be advised of their appointments by postcard. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled time. Students will register for the audition in the front lobby with the required materials and meeting the dress requirements. Students who are more than 10 minutes late may not be admitted into the audition. On average, the entire audition takes approximately 1 hour. Due to personnel and time constraints, auditions may not be rescheduled. Parents may stay in the main lobby during the audition, or return to the school within 1 hour. Due to the high volume of applicants, there will be no seating available in the school for parents/guardians.

Required Materials:

Candidates must bring the following to the audition:

- A. Resume
- B. Written Response to a vocal performance (*program or ticket stub attached*)
- C. Musical Selections (*for accompanist and judges*)
 - 2 copies of the music for their prepared selection from a Broadway musical.
 - 2 copies of the music for their prepared selection of an art song

Copies must be legible and in the key in which the selection is to be performed. If a photocopy is used for the accompanist, it must be placed in a three ring binder and must be able to rest upright on the piano rack without closing or falling off.

Since this prime receives GT credit, the audition is designed to determine if a student can succeed at this level and to give students an idea of what to expect in their classes. The audition is a measure of how well students apply their talent, complete homework, follow directions, and work independently.

Assessment Description

Dress Requirements:

Appropriate dress for young women is dark slacks/skirts that come to the knee, flat dress shoes, white shirt or blouse. Young men should wear a jacket and tie. You will stand in the crook of the piano and face the judges.

1. **Two vocal solos (40 Points):** Candidates will perform two contrasting pieces that show their vocal strengths. One selection must be from a Broadway musical. This selection should be performed demonstrating legitimate vocal technique in the style of the composer. The second selection should be an art song sung in the original language or English.

Both selections must be sung from memory and to the accompaniment of the piano. Candidates must provide their own music. An accompanist will be present. Taped accompaniments and a cappella singing are not acceptable. The judges will evaluate students on the basis of musical accuracy and expression, alignment/body use, breath management, tone quality and the potential for further creative development.

2. **Redirection (20 points):** Candidates will be given directions to determine vocal flexibility and musical potential.

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3. **On-site written response (10 Points):** Candidates will write a brief response to a question posed immediately prior to the audition.
4. **Theory (10 Points):** Candidates will take a written test to determine their knowledge of music theory.
5. **Resume/Interview (10 Points):** Candidates will participate in an interview where they will share their interests and experiences in vocal music.
6. **Written Response to a Vocal Performance (10 Points):** Submit a written reaction to the performance of one or several soloists at a performance that showcases the solo voice. (See “Demonstration of Interest” section for requirements.) Be sure to bring a program or ticket stub with you!

Documented testing accommodations, as appropriate to the assessment, will be provided.

Applicants must score an 80% or higher to qualify for admission.

Magnet Events

Magnet EXPO!	Saturday, September 24, 2011 Crowne Plaza Timonium	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Magnet Application Meetings	Tuesday, September 27, 2011 Woodlawn HS Auditorium	Program starts at 6p.m.
	Wednesday, September 28, 2011 Kenwood HS Auditorium	Program starts at 6p.m.
Application Deadline	Wednesday, November 30, 2011	

Application packets are available at www.bcps.org/offices/omp. Applications must be hand delivered or postmarked on or before **November 30, 2011**. Late applications are not processed

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS for STUDENTS INTERESTED IN VOCAL MUSIC

Vocal Music at Carver Center focuses upon the development of musical skills and singing technique. Students are prepared for majoring in music in college with voice as their primary instrument. The following qualities are fundamental for students entering the Carver Center Vocal Music Program: musicality, personal initiative, self-discipline, good health, seriousness of purpose, and trainability.

The Vocal Prime is a hybrid between the traditional applied voice lesson and class voice. At least once a week, each student receives individual attention and sings solo while other students take notes and make constructive criticism. Because all singers deal with the same issues, many aspects of singing can be effectively dealt with in a group setting, especially at the high school level. Nevertheless, Vocal Prime students are encouraged to take extra-curricular voice lessons and piano lessons.

All Vocal Music students are required to take part in occasional evening performances. Furthermore, students are required to attend numerous performances both on and off Carver Center's campus including those of the Baltimore Opera Company, which generously provides the Baltimore County Public Schools with complimentary tickets. Students are required to keep journals of their reactions to these productions. They are also expected to audition for Carver Center musical productions.

Course of Study

Level I: Students take Vocal Prime I and Class Piano. In Vocal Prime I students develop vocal technique and musical skills while learning art songs in English and Italian. Outcomes require students to perform two songs, one in English and one in Italian, from memory on a formal public recital at the end of the year. The International Phonetic Alphabet is introduced. Class Piano is an introduction to the piano keyboard.

Level II: Students take Vocal Prime II and Music Theory. In Vocal Prime II students continue to develop vocal technique and musical skills while learning German art songs and continuing to expand their repertoire in English and Italian. Outcomes require students to perform two songs, one in German and one in either English or Italian, from memory on a formal public recital at the end of the year. Application of the International Phonetic Alphabet to singing in German is included. In Music Theory, students master key signatures and intervals. Ear training, sight singing, and dictation are emphasized.

Level III: Students take Vocal Prime III and either AP Music Theory II or Opera / Musical Theatre Workshop. In Vocal Prime III students continue to develop their vocal technique and musical skills while learning French art songs and continuing to expand their repertoire in English, German, and Italian. Application of the International Phonetic Alphabet to singing in French is included. Outcomes require students to perform two songs, one in French, and one from German, Italian, or English from memory on a public formal recital at the end of the year. In AP Music Theory II voice leading, seventh chords, secondary functions, two-part melodic and rhythmic dictation, modes, and intermediate keyboards are covered. Students may choose to take the AP Music test. In Opera / Musical Theatre Workshop, students develop skills in acting, staging, and producing vocally and thematically appropriate scenes from opera and musical theatre.

Level IV: Students take Vocal Prime IV and either Opera/Musical Theatre Workshop I or II or AP Music Theory II. In Vocal Prime IV, students continue to develop vocal technique and musical skills while continuing to expand their repertoire in English, Italian, German, and French. Audition repertoire and procedures are stressed in preparation for College auditions. Outcomes require students to perform four songs from memory on an evening formal public recital: one each in French, German, Italian, and English. The English song may be from musical theatre. Vocally and thematically appropriate opera arias may be performed.