About Classical Voice

If you are interested in degree programs which require classical vocal training (Performance, Bachelor of Arts, Composition) you must audition for the Classical Voice Division. Those interested in Music Education (Choral Education, Elementary Music Education) do not need to send a DVD; you will audition after completing the gateway course for Music Education (Music 176: Introduction to careers in Music Education. See http://music.byu.edu for more information). Other degree programs (Music/Dance/Theater, Media Music, Sound Recording Technology) require a separate audition. Please contact those areas directly for that information. (rbmusic@byu.edu)

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Pre-screening:
All vocal students auditioning for the BM in Vocal Performance or BM in Composition MUST complete the pre-screening process. This process includes the following:

1. Complete the online School of Music application and letter(s) of recommendation at http://music.byu.edu/apply.
2. Upload your prescreening audition recording to YouTube by December 1. Follow the directions provided online after submitting your application. Please see the audition requirements on the next page for instructions on what to prepare.
3. Prospective students who pass the pre-screening process will be invited to perform a live audition on audition day (the last Saturday in January). Only the students who have completed the application process – including the recording, application, and letters of recommendation – by December 1 will be considered in the pre-screening process for the live auditions in January.

APPLICATION & AUDITION DATES, FALL SEMESTER

December 1: Deadline to upload pre-screening audition recordings. Deadline to COMPLETE the online application at http://music.byu.edu/apply.

January 10: Those invited to campus for a live audition will be notified. Those invited who cannot attend live auditions will still be considered for the program.

January 21: Deadline to schedule a live audition if invited after pre-screening. Auditions can be scheduled online after both the application and recommendation has been submitted.

Last Saturday in January: Live auditions are held in the Harris Fine Arts Center (HFAC) at BYU in Provo, Utah. You should plan to take the Aural Skills Exam on that day (before or after you audition). If you cannot come to the live auditions, your prescreening video will be reconsidered instead of a live audition.

To apply, visit http://music.byu.edu/apply.
For general information, see the School of Music website http://music.byu.edu.
Questions may be emailed to music@byu.edu or call the School of Music at 801-422-8903.

Graduate applicants: Please contact Lawrence Vincent at 801-422-3165 or lawrence_vincent@byu.edu.

Please feel free to contact Robert Brandt at 801-422-3114 regarding questions you may have about the classical voice area.
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

WHAT TO PREPARE:
1. Prepare three pieces of contrasting nature (styles, tempo, mood, language) that explore your most successful classical vocal repertoire. At least one of these selections must be in English. Include literature that demonstrates any language proficiency in addition to English. Sing your best pieces first.

2. If your three selections do not fully demonstrate the integration and limits of your full-voiced pitch range, you may wish to conclude with a series of vocalises that do. The voice faculty may, additionally, ask you to sing a brief portion of a well-known hymn that shows ability to sing with sense of centered pitch.

3. Remember to complete the application online at http://music.byu.edu/apply.

LIVE AUDITION INFORMATION:
If you are invited to the live audition, be aware of the following: You will select your first song, and the jury will choose from among the other songs you have prepared to complete your audition. A skilled accompanist will be provided; or you may bring your own. Only those auditioning are allowed in the audition studio.
Lawrence Vincent is presently a professor of music and the Director of Opera. Dr. Vincent began his professional operatic career in New York City with the Boris Goldovsky Opera Co. In 1982, he moved to Europe where he was engaged as lyric tenor in Trier, Germany. In 1987, he accepted a contract with the Vienna Volksoper and from 1991 to 1996, he was a member of the prestigious Vienna State Opera solo ensemble. His repertoire includes major roles in over 45 different operas and operettas and he has more than 1200 stage appearances to his credit. As a result of his “extraordinary contribution to the arts in the field of music”, Dr. Vincent was awarded Austrian citizenship in 1994. For more information, please see the School of Music website, http://music.byu.edu.

Diane Thueson Reich, soprano, is a professor of voice, and teaches Survey of Opera and Vocal Literature. She has previously taught and been the Director of Opera at Central Washington University. At home in the concert hall or opera stage she has appeared in major operatic roles, soloed with established symphonies, and been a guest artist and clinician with a number of music festivals in the northwest. Diane’s research endeavors have led her to be a leading authority on the vocal music of contemporary composer Henry Mollicone. For more information, please see the School of Music website, http://music.byu.edu.

Darrell Babidge is an instructor in the voice faculty of the School of Music at BYU. He teaches studio voice and the vocal class for incoming freshmen. Darrell has performed with major orchestras and opera companies, and recently sang at Carnegie Hall. His students have gone on to perform professionally, with a student currently in the Lindemann Young Artist Program at the Metropolitan Opera. For more information, please see the School of Music website, http://music.byu.edu.

Robert Brandt, baritone, is Assistant Professor of voice. He teaches Vocal Pedagogy and French Diction. He taught previously for 7 years at the University of Delaware where he co-directed the opera and directed the graduate Song Literature curriculum. His special love as a performer is the art song repertoire. He was recently a finalist in the Mary Trueman Art Song Competition, and was awarded the Pierre Bernac prize. For more information, please see the School of Music website, http://music.byu.edu.