



SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL

APPLICATION FOR VOCALISTS

E-Mail: SMSHighSchool@kaufman-center.org

Website: <http://kaufman-center.org/sms/SMS-High-School>

Phone: 212 501 3395

Application for Admission, September 2013, Grade 9

Application deadline - November 15, 2012

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

To apply to Special Music School High School's Vocal program you will need to:

- Complete and submit the Application Form including the Personal Statement—Pages 2-5
- Send in a copy of your 7th grade report card and standardized test scores
- Request a Teacher Recommendation, using the form on Page 6
- List your Round 1 audition as live or YouTube—Page 4

Please refer to the 'How to Apply' section on pages 7 – 12 for:

- Instructions on completing the application
- Audition Information
- List of *Suggested* Audition Music
- Frequently Asked Questions

About Kaufman Center

A national leader in the field of music education and one of New York City's most vibrant cultural organizations, Kaufman Center combines the finest in music education for all ages with world-class performance in the acoustically superior Merkin Concert Hall. Founded in 1952 as a community school for pre-conservatory music training, today's Kaufman Center is home to **Merkin Concert Hall**; **Lucy Moses School**, New York's largest community arts school; and **Special Music School**, New York's only K-12 public school for musically gifted children.

For Office Use Only: _____ Fall 2013
Date Received: _____ Date Processed: _____
Round 1 live audition date: _____
Round 2 audition date: _____

APPLICATION

DEADLINE: November 15, 2012

Return completed application, by mail or in person, with a copy of your 7th grade report card and 7th grade standardized test scores, to: Special Music School - High School Admissions, 129 West 67th Street, New York, NY 10023 **OR** email completed application to: SMSHighSchool@kaufman-center.org. Please put **HS Vocal Audition** in the subject line. Questions? Call **212 501 3395**

Applicant's Name: _____
Last First

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ (mm/dd/yy) Male/Female (circle one)

Place of Birth: City _____ State _____ Country _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN 1: _____
Last First Relationship

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Work phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Home address: _____
Street Apt. #

City State Zip Code

PARENT/GUARDIAN 2: _____
Last First Relationship

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Work phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Home address: _____
Street Apt. #

City State Zip Code

Current Middle School (Please include the address and phone # if school is not in NYC):

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE:

Please check all that apply, elaborate where applicable. Use a separate page if necessary.	YES	BRIEFLY EXPLAIN/DESCRIBE (Where, When, etc.)	NO
PRIVATE LESSONS			
PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM			
CHORUS/CHURCH or TEMPLE CHOIR/ VOCAL GROUP			
OPERA/MUSICAL THEATER			
BAND/ORCHESTRA/CHAMBER MUSIC			
MUSIC THEORY			
MUSIC CAMP			
IMPROVISATION EXPERIENCE			
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCE			
MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS: AWARDS/SOLO PERFORMANCES/SPECIAL ACTIVITY/MUSIC EXAMS/COMPETITIONS/etc.			

Your vocal type (soprano/alto/tenor/bass):

Please list the title and composer of the music you will be singing for your round 1 audition. If a selection comes from a larger work, list the complete work's title. Refer to page 10 for a list of suggested audition music.

Please list any *other* concentrations for which you will be auditioning (e.g., composition and/or instrumental; if you are also applying on an instrument, please list the specific instrument and how long you have studied it).

If you are applying for admission in more than one concentration, e.g., vocal and composition, you must complete and submit individual applications for each concentration.

Application information for other concentrations can be found in the ‘How to Apply’ section of each concentration’s application.

Please check the appropriate statement in reference to your round 1 audition:

_____ I will upload a video audition to an *unlisted* YouTube link and email that link to SMSHighSchool@kaufman-center.org, with **HS Vocal Audition** in the subject line. Refer to page 8 for audition information.

-OR-

_____ I will audition in person

Please list your order of preference for a round 1 audition date if you are auditioning in person— not via a YouTube link (please list three possible dates). While we will make every effort to accommodate your date preferences, we reserve the right to assign an audition date other than what you have listed.

ROUND 1 LIVE AUDITION DATES, 5 PM – 9 PM

- _____ Thursday, November 29
- _____ Friday, November 30
- _____ Saturday, December 1
- _____ Thursday, December 6
- _____ Friday, December 7
- _____ Saturday, December 8

Once your application is received, you will be notified of the date and time of your round-one audition.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please write a statement, 500 words or less, answering *one* of the following questions:

1. What role would you like music to play in your future?

- OR -

2. What do you think music will be like 50 years from now?

MUSIC TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM*

Please return this form by December 1, 2012, with the teacher's signature across the seal of the envelope, to:

Special Music School
HS Admissions: Vocal
129 West 67th Street
New York, NY 10023

Student Name:

Teacher Name/Position:

The student listed above is applying to Special Music School High School—a new high school opening in September 2013. In brief, this new high school will have a large focus on music within an academically rigorous curriculum.

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

1. In what musical capacity do you know the student (e.g., private instrumental teacher, band director, etc.)?
2. Does the student exhibit an enthusiasm for music?
3. Does the student come prepared to classes and/or lessons?
4. Does the student work well in groups?
5. What would you say is the student's greatest asset?
6. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about the student including, but not limited to, your sense of how he/she would do in a high school with music as a very large component of study? Please use an additional page if necessary.

*Also available online at <http://kaufman-center.org/sms/sms-high-school/admissions>

HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 15, 2012

STEP ONE: Application

Option 1 (hard copy). Application forms can be picked up from the front desk in Kaufman Center's ground floor lobby (129 West 67th Street) or downloaded from <http://kaufman-center.org/sms/admissions/application-forms/>. Complete and return the Application for Vocalists to the admissions office at the address below, by **November 15, 2012**.

Special Music School High School
Admissions Office
129 West 67th Street
New York, NY 10023

- OR -

Option 2 (online). Complete the ONLINE application form. Save it with your Last Name, First Name (Smith, John). Email completed application form to: SMSHighSchool@kaufman-center.org with the **required** subject line: **HS application: Vocal**.

If you are applying for admission in more than one concentration, e.g., vocal and composition, you must fill out individual applications for each concentration.

STEP TWO: Report card and test scores

Send in or drop off a copy of your 7th grade report card and standardized test scores along with your application (option 1). If you are submitting your application via email (option 2), scan and attach the report card and test scores with your emailed application. You may also bring them with you to your round 2 audition.

STEP THREE: Letter of Recommendation

Request one letter of recommendation from the chorus, voice or general music teacher who knows you best. The recommendation must be completed using the form on page 6. In addition, the envelope must be sealed with the teacher's signature over the seal. Be sure to write your name on the form.

STEP Four: Round 1 Auditions

Option 1 – *Online* Round 1 Audition: Upload a video of your singing to YouTube on, or before, **November 29, 2012**. Email the *unlisted* YouTube link to: SMSHighSchool@kaufman-center.org with the **required** subject line: **HS Vocal Audition**.

- OR -

Option 2 – *Live* Round 1 Audition: Once your completed application has been received, you will be notified of the time and date of your **round 1 audition**.

ROUND 1 LIVE AUDITION DATES, 5 PM – 9 PM:

November: 29 & 30, December: 1, 6, 7, & 8.

AUDITION INFORMATION

There are two rounds of auditions. Round 1 is open to anyone who is interested in a high school with a strong music curriculum. Round 2 is open to applicants who have passed the round 1 audition.

The purpose of Round 1 is to determine the applicant's basic vocal and musical ability. The purpose of Round 2 is to determine more fully a candidate's musicianship, including music theory knowledge, creativity, and collaborative skills.

Round 1 auditions can be live or YouTube. All round 2 auditions will be *LIVE*—no video or taped auditions are permitted in round 2. All live auditions will be held in Manhattan at a location TBA.

An accompanist will be provided, free of charge, for all live auditions. Applicants are responsible for music for the accompanist. Anyone who shows up without music will audition without accompaniment; there will not be any opportunity for rescheduling an audition if you do not bring accompaniment music. Please bring two copies of your music to your audition(s); one copy for the accompanist and one copy for the audition panel, we are not able to make copies for you.

Applicants may bring their own accompanist—any and all expenses for personal accompanists are the sole responsibility of the applicant. No recorded, taped, karaoke, and/or “Music Minus One” accompaniments are acceptable.

It is suggested that you perform your audition(s) from memory, however it is not a requirement to do so.

ROUND 1 AUDITIONS:

Audition requirements: A song, or songs, totaling *at least* 3 minutes in length. See page 10 for a list of suggested audition music.

Option 1 – YouTube Video Audition Information:

Upload your video recording to YouTube. Label your uploaded audition with your name and the title of the selections you are performing. Be sure to set it as an ‘*unlisted*’ link. Email the link to SMSHighSchool@kaufman-center.org with **HS Vocal Audition** in the subject line. All YouTube audition links are due no later than **November 29, 2012**.

When recording/shooting your video, please shoot it with an unchanging, full-length view of you performing your songs.

You may use an accompanist on your video, but you are not required to do so; any and all expenses for an accompanist are the sole responsibility of the applicant. No recorded, taped, karaoke, and/or “Music Minus One” accompaniments are acceptable.

Any expenses incurred as a result of a YouTube video audition are the sole responsibility of the applicant.

Option 2 – Live Audition Information:

Once your application is received, you will be contacted with the date, time, and location of your round 1, live audition. Round 1 auditions will be held in Manhattan at a location TBA.

ROUND 2 AUDITIONS

If you are invited to round 2, you will be contacted with the date and time of your round 2 audition. Please keep all round 2 dates open.

Audition requirements: You should prepare a total of *at least* 3 minutes worth of music for your round 2 audition; you may sing one or more than one song. The selection(s) you perform in round 2 *must* be different, and contrast in style, from that which you sang in round 1. There will also be sight singing, a mini improvisation workshop, and a music theory test in round 2. In addition, you may be asked to sing melodic patterns throughout your range.

All round 2 auditions will be *LIVE*—no video or taped auditions are permitted in round 2. You must perform *different music* from that which you performed in round 1.

Round 2 auditions will be held in Manhattan at a location TBA.

ROUND 2 AUDITION DATES All auditions will be held between 5 – 9 PM.

Thursday, December 13

Friday, December 14

Saturday, December 15

Monday, December 17

Tuesday, December 18

Wednesday, December 19

LIST OF *SUGGESTED* AUDITION MUSIC

The following is a suggested list of repertoire for the auditions. You are not required to audition with classical music. If you do not choose a selection from the following list, make sure that your selections demonstrate both your ability and expressive range. You may perform music you are singing with your chorus. You are encouraged, but not required, to perform the music from memory in both rounds.

Any selection from [24 Italian Songs and Arias](#)

Standard Folksongs (Danny Boy, The Water is Wide, Scarborough Fair, Simple Gifts , etc.)

Early Broadway songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Rodgers and Hart, Bernstein, Lerner and Lowe, Kern etc.

Great American Songbook – any jazz standard

American/English art songs – Copland, Barber, Vaughan Williams, Holst, Purcell, Dowland

VOCALIST FAQ's

I've never taken voice lessons and don't know any solo repertoire but I love to sing and I sing in a choir, may I still audition? Yes, you can sing any songs you know. You may sing a hymn from church, a song you learned in choir, etc.

Do I need to have taken voice lessons? No, it is not necessary that you have been studying voice but our ideal students are musicians with note-reading ability, natural, healthy vocal tone, a willingness to explore their vocal ability and openness to all musical styles.

Do I have to sing "Classical" songs? No, you do not need to sing "classical" songs. You should sing something that you feel comfortable with and that shows your natural vocal sound. Healthy, natural singing is the goal.

What is the format of the audition? You may audition in person or by uploading a recording to YouTube for your round 1 audition. *All* round 2 auditions are live auditions. Please bring two copies of your music to your audition(s); one copy for the accompanist and one copy for the audition panel, we are not able to make copies for you.

What do I need to prepare for my audition(s)? For round 1, you must prepare a song, or songs, totaling *at least* 3 minutes in length. If you are invited for a round 2 audition, you must prepare a total of *at least* 3 minutes worth of music; you may sing more than one song. The selection(s) you perform in round 2 *must* be different, and contrast in style, from those you sang in round 1.

What do you mean by "contrast in style"? The mood and tempo of your songs should differ from each other; e.g., one song can be a fast jazz standard, while another can be slower and more lyrical.

Will there be an accompanist? Yes, we will provide an accompanist. You must bring the music for the accompanist.

Will there be any rehearsals with the accompanist? No, there will not be any rehearsal time with the accompanist. If you are interested in rehearsing, you may contact the school at 212 501 3395, to get contact information of an accompanist. All arrangements and costs associated with any rehearsals are the responsibility of the applicant.

What if I don't have music for the accompanist? If you cannot provide the music for the accompanist, you will have to audition without accompaniment. No recorded, taped, karaoke, or "Music Minus One" accompaniments are acceptable.

May I use my own accompanist? Yes, you may bring your own accompanist to your audition, however, all arrangements and costs are your responsibility.

Am I required to use an accompanist for an audition? No, you may audition without any accompaniment.

Is it a requirement to perform from memory in the audition? No, you are not required to perform your audition from memory, but it is encouraged.

Will I have time to warm up at the audition? You should come warmed up, as we cannot guarantee the timing or availability of warm-up rooms. In addition, you should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your audition time.

May I audition for more than one concentration? Yes, you may audition for one, two, or all three concentrations, or on more than one instrument. If you are auditioning for more than one concentration (i.e. vocal *and* composition), you *must* fill out separate applications for each concentration.