CONTemporary Voice Auditions
For music students interested in Media Music or Sound Recording Technology programs

Every music major must audition in a performance specialty. Contemporary Voice is designed for vocalists who wish to pursue a career in commercial music and is only available to those students who wish to major in Media Music or Sound Recording Technology in the School of Music. (Please note that since the contemporary voice audition is only for the Media Music and Sound Recording Technology programs, if at a later time you want to change majors, you may be required to re-audition for the new program.)

Audition Information:
Location: The Richards Building (RB) on BYU Campus
Day: Last Saturday in January (same day as the rest of the School of Music)
Time: By Appointment Only. Call (801) 422-2563 after January 1 or visit us at 1128 RB
Deadline to schedule audition: see audition deadline schedule posted by the School of Music admissions office (music.byu.edu)

Audition Preparations:
Prepare samples of two (2) songs in contemporary-related styles, preferably in contrasting tempos. An example would be a pop or R&B song and a Broadway style piece. Original material is not required. Prepare material that shows off your best vocal qualities. 3 minutes total.

An accompanist will be provided. Please cut and prepare your accompaniment as necessary before attending your audition. We do not recommend you accompany yourself. We are evaluating your vocal and performance qualities, not your ability to play another instrument. If you feel strongly about accompanying yourself, a guitar is preferred, especially if you remember to make eye contact with the panel. It’s more of a problem on piano where you have to face away from the evaluators. Piano self-accompaniment may be undertaken on one song, but please plan on utilizing other accompaniment options for the other song. If you are proficient on an instrument, please make sure to include that information in your Portfolio submission.

Some additional tips for a successful audition experience:
Be sure to select songs and styles you care about. This is much more important than anything you may hear about specific techniques or styles you think the panel may be looking for. They’re looking for a committed, passionate, skillful performance. If you’re also a songwriter, it is fine to audition with one original song, but the second song should be pre-existing. And keep in mind that this is primarily a vocal audition. No additional credit is earned from original material. Your original songs and other submissions will be evaluated as components of your Portfolio, not as part of the audition.

Videotaped/DVD auditions from out of town applicants will be accepted until the audition date, and in some cases we can accept unedited CD recordings. In these cases, be sure to include a photo. Please note, students submitting a videotaped audition must submit this contemporary voice audition in addition to the other materials required as part of the Media Music or Sound Recording Technology.