

Pure Note

What happens in a Pure Note audition?

Be aware, Pure Note auditions are public; you must do your audition as a group, and sing in front of everyone else who is auditioning that day. If you are auditioning later in the year you will need to sing in front of Pure Note.

1. You will be asked to sing a verse/chorus of a song (any song!) without accompaniment and without words. You must sing the song as soon as it is requested.
2. You will be asked to sing a major scale without accompaniment; only the starting note will be given.
3. You will be asked to sing a natural minor scale without accompaniment; only the starting note will be given.
4. You will be played a melody and you will need to accurately sing it back.
5. The accompanist will play a different melody. You must sing the original melody while the accompanist plays the second.
6. You will have to swap to the second melody while someone else sings the first melody. This is about holding your part accurately and is essential for participating in Pure Note.
7. You will be asked to sing some vowel exercises. This is about purity of tone, not volume or how 'cool' you sound. We are listening for the most beautiful way to sing 'ah' 'eh' 'ii' 'oh' and 'oo'. You should have learned this already in your school voice lessons.
8. You will be asked to show your Singchronicity folder to the conductors. They are looking at how well you take notes during rehearsal. This is good practice and is essential for Pure Note singers.
9. You will be asked to sight sing examples of increasing difficulty. Pure Note have short rehearsals; you need to be able to read your part and follow the music quickly.
10. We will test your vocal range, but you should keep in mind that Pure Note don't have allocated parts like Singchronicity. Pure Note are expected to sing any part they are given, and to move parts for different songs depending on the sound needed. You need to be adventurous and have no pre-conceived conception of your 'voice type'. You are no longer a soprano when you enter Pure Note, you are whatever is needed to make the most beautiful sound.

Pure Note auditions are hard. There are only 16 places and we are looking for the most dedicated singers who will blend well together. We are looking for team players who can lead. You need to attend weekly rehearsals and make yourself available for performances. You have to work.

Pure Note is a challenge. You should look at the students in the ensemble now and consider if you are at their level yet, or if you perhaps need another year to focus on your skills. Remember—the audition is the easy part! If this looks hard, perhaps wait another year before auditioning.

If you don't get in the first time, it doesn't mean you weren't 'good enough'. It means we picked the best team for the year; the team that blends best. Listen to the sound being produced that year and try to replicate it. Practise that sound, and come back to try again next year. Ask for feedback on what you need to focus on in rehearsals (Pure Note have to do this all the time, so it's great practise!).