



ORINDA IDOL 2011

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What makes a good song selection for Orinda Idol?

Good songs are those that show off the singer's voice well, allow the singer to be expressive, and lend themselves well to performance on stage. For example, songs from Broadway musicals tend to work well while many pop songs aren't well suited.

What makes a great performance?

Great performances are those where the song is sung from the heart with choreography that ties to the song and seems natural.

How can I avoid singing flat?

You can give yourself the best shot at staying on key by always having good breath support, and listening carefully to yourself and your musical back-up as you're singing.

What other tips would you give to finalists?

Remember to be "on" as you walk up onto the stage and as you exit; try to relax and smile as you come and go, even if you're nervous. Avoid getting hidden behind the monitor that we have traditionally positioned in the middle of the stage. Also, while staying close to the mic, try to avoid hiding your face behind it.

Where can I buy karaoke back-up CD's and equipment?

These can be purchased on line at a number of Internet sites. You can also purchase items from Advance Video in Pinole, a store dedicated to karaoke CD's and equipment. (2434 San Pablo Ave., Pinole, (510) 741-8168.) David Leong, the proprietor, is very friendly. He has a large inventory of equipment and CD's, and he will let you try out various back-up CD's before you buy one.

Why would I want to buy special karaoke equipment?

The equipment comes with the ability to change keys and has output that lets you see the song lyrics on a monitor.

How do I change the key of my back-up music?

Often back-up music is available in different keys. Also, using your karaoke equipment which allows for changing the key, you can make a recording of the back-up in the revised key if you have CD writing hardware. External CD writing hardware is available from Advance Video for \$100 to \$500.

What should I do if my song exceeds the allowable time limits?

For the auditions, don't worry if your song is long; if the song is too long, it will simply be stopped at the end of the allowable time period. For the Finals, you will want to carefully edit the song back-up so that it fits within the time required. Using *Audacity* software you will be able to edit a song, and using *LAME* software you can export the edited song into an mp3 file. Both are available for free on the Internet. Once exported to an mp3 file on your computer, you can use the computer's CD writing capability to make a CD.

Can you suggest photographers to take Playbill head shot photos?

Terry Riggins is a professional photographer in Orinda who has offered to take head shots at attractive pricing. Her contact information is terry@terryrigginsphotography.com, (925) 253-1658. Christina Shook is also a professional photographer who has photographed Orinda Idol participants in the past. Her contact information is christina@cshook.com, (415) 713-9717. Another photographer that was recommended is Melanie at Clix. Her contact info is (925) 676-2549, www.clixportraitstudios.com.

If I've still got questions who should I contact?

Send any inquiries to orindaidol@bluestar.com and the right person will get back to you.