

BALTIMORE SCHOOL *for the* ARTS

September 2016

Dear Parent and Student:

Baltimore School for the Arts will be holding auditions in dance, instrumental music, vocal, theatre, stage design and production, and visual arts for current 8th and 9th grade students from January 23-26, 2017, for admission in September 2018. A student may audition in one or two art areas.

Information to help you prepare for the audition is attached. **Students are selected based solely on the audition and interview process. Baltimore School for the Arts does not consider recommendations or student records, nor are student records or recommendations consulted.**

The only information required for an audition is a completed and signed application. **Completed applications must be returned to Baltimore School for the Arts by Wednesday, November 22, 2016. FAXED COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. We are unable to confirm receipt of your application by phone or email. A post card will be mailed the first week of December acknowledging receipt of your application. You may send applications by certified mail if you need an immediate receipt.**

All appointment letters will be mailed by the last week of December 2016. If your child has not received an appointment letter by January 4, 2017, please call 443.642.5167 between the hours of 8 am and 2 pm. Please do not leave messages on the school's answering system concerning auditions.

Non-Baltimore City residents who are accepted for admission must pay tuition. Tuition is set by the Baltimore City Board of Education. Tuition for the current 2016-2017 school year is \$6,510 per year. Tuition is subject to change.

Your envelope containing only the application should be addressed as follows:

**Baltimore School for the Arts
c/o Lisa Peels
712 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201**

All letters of acceptance or non-acceptance will be mailed by February 20, 2017.

VOCAL MUSIC AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

How must I prepare for the vocal music audition?

Applicants interested in voice should sing any song (no matter how simple) that demonstrates the quality of the voice and the clear articulation of the song's words. Patriotic songs, church hymns, some show tunes, and art songs are appropriate.

Students may choose to sing the **first stanza** of "*My Country Tis of Thee*" (*America*). This song is recommended for students who cannot decide what song to sing for the voice audition. A student could Google *My Country Tis of Thee*. There are several websites that play the melody. The first stanza is given below:

My Country Tis of Thee

My Country tis of thee.
Sweet land of liberty.
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died!
Land of the pilgrims' pride!
From every mountain side,
Let Freedom ring!

NOTE: "*My Country Tis of Thee*" is not a required song to sing for the audition. It is only a suggestion.

You may bring sheet music, and the school will provide an accompanist. You may not bring your own accompanist.

Popular music that imitates the style of a particular singer **is not helpful** in determining the quality of a young voice and **should be avoided**.

Singing with records, tapes, or CDs is not permitted.

The music jury considers the musical potential of each applicant. Previous training or the lack of training is not necessarily a determining factor in acceptance to the program.

#3 Low Range

America

Samuel F. Smith, 1832
Thesaurus Musicus 1744

My coun-try 'tis of thee, sweet land of li - ber - ty, of thee I sing,

The first system of musical notation for the song 'America'. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

7

land where my fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,

The second system of musical notation, starting at measure 7. It continues with the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

11

from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring!

The third system of musical notation, starting at measure 11. It concludes the piece with the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

#2 Medium Range

America

Samuel F. Smith, 1832
Thesaurus Musicus 1744

My coun-try 'tis of thee, sweet land of li - ber-ty, of thee I sing;

The first system of musical notation for the song 'America'. It consists of a vocal line in a treble clef and a piano accompaniment in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: 'My coun-try 'tis of thee, sweet land of li - ber-ty, of thee I sing;'

land where my fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,

The second system of musical notation. It continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'land where my fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,'

from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring!

The third system of musical notation, concluding the piece. The lyrics are: 'from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring!'

#1 High Range

America

Samuel F. Smith, 1832
Thesaurus Musicus 1744.

My coun-try 'tis of thee, sweet land of li - ber-ty. of thee I sing,

The first system of musical notation for the song 'America'. It consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'My coun-try 'tis of thee, sweet land of li - ber-ty. of thee I sing,'

7
land where my fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,

The second system of musical notation, starting at measure 7. It includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'land where my fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,'

11
from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring!

The third system of musical notation, starting at measure 11. It includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring!'