

Instructions for Downloading and Creating Your Audition CD

The following instructions may seem intense, but if take your time, you should be just fine.

Downloading the Mp3's from the MMA Website

For Mac: Simply click and hold down the “alt” button on your keyboard, then click either the song or vocal exercise listed on the Mp3 download list you wish to download. It would be good to have them download directly to your desktop. You can do this by changing your download options under “preferences.”

For PC: Using Firefox or google chrome you right click on the song or vocal exercise listed on the Mp3 download list, then click “save link as,” choose the location you want (preferably the desktop) and save. It will save as an mp3. If you are using Explorer, you right click on the song you want and click “save target as” and choose location.

Creating a MMA Audition CD

There are two ways you can choose to make your audition CD. ****NOTE**** no matter which way you choose to record, please label your mp3 files as follows. Here are some examples.

Last name, First initial (space) – (dash) (space) vocal exercise	True, L – Vocal exercise
Last name, First initial (space) – (dash) vocal Shepherd Me, O God	True, L – Vocal SMOG
Last name, First initial (space) – (dash) vocal Easter Alleluia	True, L – Vocal EA
Last name, First initial (space) – (dash) vocal Spanish piece	True, L – Spanish optional
Last name, First initial (space) – (dash) Guitar Shepherd Me, O God	Fisher, B – Guitar SMOG
Last name, First initial (space) – (dash) Piano Easter Alleluia	Trapp, L – Piano EA
Last name, First initial (space) – (dash) Composition piece	Haas, D – Composition (name of piece)
Etc., etc., etc...	

Option 1 - After downloading the mp3's you could simply burn a CD (see below if you need instructions), play it through a CD player, and then record yourself singing with it. (Much like many of you have done this in past years.) This actually may be the best way to record percussion instruments.

Option 2 – If you have a computer or laptop with a build in microphone you can record yourself directly into your computer. This is a little more challenging BUT the recording quality is so much better! Here's how you would do it:

Option 2 for Mac: GarageBand is a great option for you. First, be sure to use ear buds or headphones as you record. This will help with any feedback issues. Open GarageBand. Create a new project, choose the “Voice” button and name the file (see above), click “create.” Next, drag one of the downloaded mp3 files from the MMA website, into the center area. It will create a new track. Highlight the “Female or Male Basic” track and begin recording by pressing the red record button and stop button when you are done. Be sure to listen to your recording. **VERY IMPORTANT!!** Each track has its own volume control so be sure to adjust so that your voice/instrument can be heard well.

When you have completed your track save it. Next, click the “Share” button. This is to the right of the “File” button (across the top). Click “Send song to iTunes,” and name your play list “MMA Audition 2012.” This will make it easy for you to find in iTunes. Repeat this process for all the songs you want to include for your audition. Once all your songs are sent to iTunes open your iTunes. From there, click on your MMA Audition 2012 playlist so that you can burn your CD in iTunes.

Be sure to use a black marker and label your CD with your first and last name. Additionally, please include a list of everything you have recorded and what you are playing or singing on with your application.

If you don't have GarageBand, you can download a program called “Audacity” for Mac. It is free from online. If you go this route, be sure to also download and install the “LAME Mp3 Encoder” as well. Once on the “Audacity” website, you can scroll down to “Recommended Downloads” to find the LAME download. Hint – if you download and install both applications before you begin, you won't have to stop mid-stream. Follow the instructions for downloading and installing these programs. Once you open “Audacity” click file import, audio and select the mp3 download from the MMA website you want to record to. To begin recording press the red button, Audacity will automatically create an additional track for the vocal/instrumental. Click the yellow square button to stop. Be sure to use ear buds or headphones to avoid feedback and BE SURE to listen to your recording. We need to hear you!! When done, select File export, and rename the file (see above*) **Then save as an mp3 file to either desktop or iTunes.** We suggest that you put all your songs in a play list marked MMA audition 2012 so it will be easy for you to burn your CD.

Option 2 for PC: You will need to download the above mentioned program, “Audacity.” Go to audacity.sourceforge.net. Click “Download Audacity 1.3.14” (Beta). Scroll down to “Recommended Download” Click the link next to windows 2000/xp/vista/7. This will download the application. Run the application and install the program. Next, go to audacity.forge.net/help/fag and click on “How do I download and install the LAME mp3 encoder?” Follow the instructions provided.

Once both programs are installed, open Audacity and click File import, audio and select the mp3 download from the MMA website you want to record to. To begin recording press the red button, Audacity will automatically create an additional track for the vocal/instrumental. Click the yellow square button to stop. Be sure to use ear buds or headphones to avoid feedback and BE SURE to listen to your recording. We need to hear you!! When done, select File export, and rename the file (see above***) **Then save as type: mp3 and save.** Edit meta data, put in play list if it allows MMA Audition 2012 and click OK. You can save to desktop.

To burn your CD on a PC click “Start,” then “Computer,” then right click on DVD drive. It will ask you “How do you want to use the disc?” You answer “with CD/DVD player.” Next drag mp3 files you have just created into the open window and click “burn to disc.” Next, make audio CD, click next. This opens “Windows Media Player” on the right side you will see “start burn” click this to burn CD.

Be sure to use a black marker and label your CD with your first and last name. Additionally, please include a list of everything you have recorded and what you are playing or singing on with your application.