

G. W. Carver Center for the Arts and Technology

938 York Road
Towson, MD 21204

Vocal Music

2024-2025 Assessment Guidelines

Table of Contents

General Rules and Processes – 1

Assessment Overview – 2

Assessment Components and Self-Evaluation – 2

Preparing for the Assessment – 3

Eligibility

Applications must be submitted on or before 1 p.m. on Friday, November 3, 2023. Applications can be accessed from the [BCPS Magnet Programs' Web site \(www.tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet\)](http://www.tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet) beginning at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Late applications are not processed.

Applicants must attend and complete the assessment for the program to which they applied. Failure to do so will disqualify the applicant; and admission into the magnet program will be denied.

Applicants may only assess for the program(s) to which they applied. Assessments completed for a program not selected on the application will not be scored.

Documented testing accommodations, as appropriate to the assessment, will be provided. Education plans for students not currently attending a BCPS school must be submitted with the magnet application.

Assessment Scheduling

Assessments must be scheduled through the online application system when the application is submitted.

Failure to attend an assessment WILL result in disqualification.

If there are scheduling conflicts with other magnet assessments, parents must contact the Magnet Programs' office by no later than November 8, 2023.

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to:

- ensure the applicant attends the assessment on the scheduled date and time.
- ensure the applicant brings the required materials to the assessment.
- contact the schools immediately if an unforeseen illness or emergency occurs.

Unforeseen Illness or Emergency: If the applicant cannot attend or complete the scheduled assessment due to an unforeseen illness or emergency, **please immediately contact G. W. Carver Center for the Arts and Technology at (443) 809-2793.** Please be aware that assessments will not be rescheduled without documentation verifying the illness or emergency. Documentation must be provided to the school within 72 hours of the illness or emergency.

Inclement Weather: If school activities are cancelled due to inclement weather, magnet assessments will be postponed. Postponed assessments will occur on the designated inclement weather date. All emergency closing and cancellation information will be posted on the BCPS automated information line, (443) 809-5555. Closings and cancellation announcements may also be made through local media.

Academic Integrity

By taking the BCPS magnet assessments, applicants agree NOT to participate in any of the following activities. Violation of this agreement may result in disqualification:

- Submitting, copying, or attempting to copy another's work, including plagiarizing another's words or ideas
- Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials and/or technology
- Falsifying information in an academic exercise
- Assisting another in academic dishonesty

Assessment Overview

G. W. Carver Center for the Arts and Technology

Vocal Music

Preparing for the Assessment

Musical Selections: This MUST be completed prior to coming to the assessment.

Applicants should prepare two contrasting pieces that show their vocal strengths. Initiative and commitment are essential in the GT Vocal Music program. It is expected that the student will take responsibility for finding their songs. Students will need to learn the assessment songs they will sing, from memory, with piano accompaniment. The musical selections should not be songs the student already knows.

Both selections must be sung from memory and to the accompaniment of the piano. **Applicants must provide their own music.** An accompanist will be present. Taped accompaniments and a cappella singing are not acceptable.

Applicants must bring two copies of EACH Musical Selection—one set for the judges and one for the accompanist. Copies must be legible and in the key in which the selection is to be performed. If a photocopy is used for the accompanist, it must be placed in a three-ring binder and must be able to rest upright on the piano rack without closing or falling off.

- a. **Broadway Musical:** One selection must be from a Broadway musical. This selection should be performed demonstrating legitimate vocal technique in the style of the composer, without “belting” or “crooning.” In addition, the Broadway song should be gender and age appropriate.

Any song in the following books, or songs like them, is an acceptable Broadway song:

- *Kids' Broadway Songbook*. Hal Leonard, publisher.
- *The Singer's Musical Theatre Anthology* (Soprano/Mezzo-soprano or Alto/Tenor/ Baritone or Bass), Hal Leonard, publisher.

Each voice classification has several volumes. Any song from any volume for the student's voice class is acceptable.

- b. **Art Song:** The second selection should be an art song sung in the original language or English. An art song is the setting of a poem for solo voice and piano. Broadway songs, choral songs, hymns, and popular songs are not art songs.

Any song in the following books, or songs like them, is an acceptable art song:

- *Easy Songs for Beginning Sopranos/Mezzo-sopranos*. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.
- *Easy Songs for Beginning Altos/Tenors/Baritones*. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.
- *Easy Songs for Beginning Basses*. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.
- *First Book of Soprano Solos/Mezzo-soprano Solos*. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.
- *First Book of Altos/Tenor/Baritone Solos*. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.
- *First Book of Bass Solos*. Joan Frey Boytim; editor, G. Schirmer, publisher.

Each voice classification has several volumes. Any song from any volume for the student's voice class is acceptable.

There are also several free resources to find art songs that may be in the collections.

- <https://artsongcentral.com/>
- <https://www.pdinfo.com/>

The song collection books referenced above are available at:

- Music and Arts. 1940 York Road, Lutherville/Timonium. 410-453-0814
- Menchey Music Services. 2444 Broad Avenue (off Padonia Road), Timonium. 410-543-6635
- Stu's Music Shop. 723 Baltimore Boulevard, Westminster. 410-876-7585
- www.amazon.com; www.abe.com; www.barnesandnoble.com; or www.bn.com

G. W. Carver Center for the Arts and Technology Vocal Music

Redirection:

Applicants will be asked to repeat sections from the selections and given directions to determine vocal flexibility and musical potential.

Theory Test:

Applicants will take a short, written test to determine their knowledge of reading music.

Resume:

Applicants must prepare a resume of their vocal and instrumental musical experience and bring it with them to the assessment. Chorus, band, and orchestra experience should be listed along with any individual voice or instrumental instruction. Theatrical and/or dance experience and/or training should also be included.

Questionnaire:

Applicants will answer several questions regarding their interests and experiences in vocal music.

Essay:

Applicants will write a brief response to a question posed immediately prior to the assessment.

Suggested Attire:

Appropriate dress is dark slacks and tie or knee-length skirt/dress with low-heeled/no-heeled dress shoes. Applicants will stand in the crook of the piano and face the judges.

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN VOCAL MUSIC

Vocal Music at Carver Center focuses upon the development of musical skills and singing technique. Students are prepared for majoring in music in college with voice as their primary instrument. The following qualities are fundamental for students entering the Carver Center Vocal Music Program: musicality, personal initiative, self-discipline, good health, seriousness of purpose, and trainability.

The Vocal Prime is a hybrid between the traditional applied voice lesson and class voice. At least once a week, each student receives individual attention. Because all singers deal with the same issues, many aspects of singing can be effectively dealt with in a group setting, especially at the high school level. Students will participate in masterclasses, receive feedback from peers and the teacher, and will gain confidence in performing in front of an audience.

All Vocal Music students are required to take part in occasional evening performances. Furthermore, students are required to attend numerous performances both on and off Carver Center's campus including those of Lyric Opera Baltimore, which generously provides the Baltimore County Public Schools with complimentary tickets. Students are required to keep journals of their reactions to these productions. They are also expected to audition for Carver Center musical productions.

G. W. Carver Center for the Arts and Technology

Vocal Music

Course of Study

Level I: Students take Vocal Prime I and Class Piano. In Vocal Prime I students develop vocal technique and musical skills while learning art songs in English and Italian. Outcomes require students to perform two songs, one in English and one in Italian, from memory on a formal public recital at the end of the year. The International Phonetic Alphabet is introduced. Class Piano is an introduction to the piano keyboard.

Level II: Students take Vocal Prime II and Music Theory. In Vocal Prime II students continue to develop vocal technique and musical skills while learning German art songs and continuing to expand their repertoire in English and Italian. A Broadway song is studied and performed. Healthy belting and other non-Classical styles of vocal production are included. Outcomes require students to perform two songs, one in German and one in either English or Italian, from memory on a formal public recital at the end of the year. In Music Theory, students master key signatures and intervals. Ear training, sight singing, and dictation are emphasized.

Level III: Students take Vocal Prime III and either AP Music Theory II, Opera / Musical Theatre Workshop or Chamber Choir. In Vocal Prime III students continue to develop their vocal technique and musical skills while learning French art songs and continuing to expand their repertoire in English, German, and Italian. Application of the International Phonetic Alphabet to singing in French is included. A Broadway song is studied and performed. Healthy belting and other non-Classical styles of vocal production are included. Outcomes require students to perform two songs, one in French, and one from German, Italian, or English from memory on a formal public recital at the end of the year. In AP Music Theory II voice leading, seventh chords, secondary functions, two-part melodic and rhythmic dictation, modes, and intermediate keyboards are covered. Students may choose to take the AP Music test. In Opera / Musical Theatre Workshop, students develop skills in acting, staging, and producing vocally and thematically appropriate scenes from opera and musical theatre. Chamber Choir is a select ensemble with frequent performances both on and off campus.

Level IV: Students take Vocal Prime IV and either Opera/Musical Theatre Workshop I or II, AP Music Theory II, or Chamber Choir. In Vocal Prime IV, students continue to develop vocal technique and musical skills while continuing to expand their repertoire in English, Italian, German, and French. Audition repertoire and procedures are stressed in preparation for college auditions. Twentieth Century American Art Song and Spanish Art Song selections are performed. A Broadway song is studied and performed. Outcomes require students to perform from memory on an evening formal public recital.

See the GWCCAT [website \(http://carverhs.bcps.org/\)](http://carverhs.bcps.org/) for more detailed course descriptions.