

A STAGED READING AND SING THROUGH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does this staged sing through entail?

This staged sing through will be a performance of THE SOCIAL SECRETARY with singer-actors reading and singing from a script on a music stand – with no sets, props, or other theatrical elements. Because there are no theatrical elements, stage directions are also read to help create the world of the play for the audience. *No memorization is required for performers.*

Performers may either read from a device (iPad, tablet, ...) or may print the script from the PDF file and read it from a binder, as they prefer.

How should I choose a monologue for the audition (especially if I'm interested in several roles)?

It's best to choose a monologue for the character you are most interested in playing (see the character descriptions and excerpt), but you can choose any monologue that shows off your skills best. Feel free to record several to show range.

In the monologues (and in some scenes), there are lines in parentheses. What do I do with those lines during my audition?

Since the monologues and scenes are either 'crafted' from several lines in the script or adjusted for simplicity, there is sometimes missing context that we thought would be helpful for clarity. Just leave a pause and then act as if it was said by the character indicated.

Can you explain more about the vocal ranges?

The vocal 'part' (i.e. soprano, alto, tenor etc...) is the intended vocal range for the part. The notes given (i.e. F2-G4) are the current range in the score. We're giving this guide to help you note which parts are generally in your range.

Since this piece is in development, this is subject to change, but the eventual range will not vary outside the comfort of the selected singer.

What are you looking for in the video audition?

We're looking for a clear expression of the character you're portraying in your singing and acting. No special lighting or recording equipment is required or expected. As long as it is well lit enough to see you and sound clear enough to hear you, that works for us.

It's best to consult the character description for each role you are considering, as that is what we're specifically looking for in your audition.

Do you have any suggestions for how to submit my audition videos? How will I be sure that you can view them?

There are a few different ways and you may choose whichever you are most comfortable with. After you submit your videos, we will check that we can view them properly and send you a confirmation.

1. *Attaching the video(s) to the email body.* You can include your video(s) as attachments in your email submission. This works for smaller files or shorter videos.

2. *A Shared Google Drive*: You can add your audition video(s) to a folder in Google Drive and make the folder shareable by link. In your email submission, include the link to the folder.
3. *“Unlisted” Youtube Videos*: We are giving you some links that walk you through this process from both your computer and your phone. Links to “unlisted” videos on YouTube are great ways to share larger or longer videos easily while maintaining the quality and also keeping them private. Once the video is uploaded as “unlisted,” it is not findable or searchable by anyone, it is only findable by the link, which you can copy and paste into your email body in your submission.

Here are some videos that may help!

How to upload a video to YouTube from your phone:

(you do not need the YouTube Studio app)

<https://youtu.be/sgs1azO8H-U?si=CgSS2JbKOeyiSSs-&t=80>

How to upload a video as “unlisted” from your computer:

<https://youtu.be/jaftEW9WI3U?si=LDeD18m-IvtgCcic>

What are callbacks and how will they be conducted?

If we need to see more from you following your submitted audition, we will invite you to a callback. You will be reading scenes from the show with other actors virtually via zoom or in person. We may also have you sing another song from the show.

Not receiving a callback does not mean that you will not be cast, and attending a callback does not guarantee being cast.

I see that there are some non-singing roles. Can I audition for this musical and not have to sing?

Some roles (notably Theo and the Stage Directions Reader) do not have any singing parts in the show and therefore only read to record a monologue and/or scene

I am only interested in accepting a certain role(s). If I indicate that on my audition form, will that negatively affect how you feel about my audition?

Not at all! We appreciate your honesty and *completely* understand that you may be only interested in participating for a certain role or two. We won't think less of you – or be reluctant to cast you - if you're only interested in a particular role(s).

I've never been on stage before (or it's been a long time). Can I still audition?

Absolutely! We'd LOVE to see you come out – prior experience is not required. We can't guarantee that you'll get a role if you audition, but you certainly have a better chance of getting cast if you come out and take the chance!

How many rehearsals will I be called to?

Since it's a 'reading' and not a full production the schedule is light comparatively. The leads will be called to most rehearsals, while most characters will only be called to four or five. Everyone will be called to the first sing through and dress rehearsal.

I have some conflicts with rehearsals, can I still be cast?

We can't cast anyone with the dress rehearsal or performance date conflict. However, in most other cases and for most characters, we can work around conflicts. It is essential to list all your

conflicts on the rehearsal calendar as we plan our schedule around cast members' conflicts and availability.

I understand that this is an original work. What is the development history?

This musical is based on Ellen's first play THE SOCIAL SECRETARY. Ellen and composer Ryan Carroll met through a mutual friend in 2023 and hit it off both personally and artistically when Ryan composed one song "The Life I Might Have Known". After that, Ryan and Ellen agreed to spend the next year working on a song a month and adapting the book to create this new musical. They completed their first draft earlier this year and had a private reading in May 2024, followed by a workshop in June 2024.

This staged sing through will be the first opportunity to have an audience in the development of the piece.

More questions? Feel free to reach out to us at social.secretary.musical@gmail.com