

## MUSICAL THEATER AUDITIONS

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There are two musical theater ensembles offered at the Manhattan School of Music: **The American Musical Theater Ensemble** and **Musical Theater Lab**. Students are selected for these ensembles during the same audition, and both are taught by the same faculty.

**The American Musical Theater Ensemble** is a vocal performance ensemble. The time commitment for this ensemble is one full year. The first semester is a “teaching” semester in which members learn the style of musical theater performance, audition technique and repertory, scene technique, practical aspects of the business, etc. The second semester is entirely devoted to the spring production and consists of rehearsals only. The “show” will be a musical revue performed with lights, sound, choreography, a band, etc., in Borden Auditorium, usually in middle May. Some past revues include *Side by Side* by Sondheim, *The Rhythm of Life* (Cy Coleman), *The World Goes ’Round* (Kander and Ebb), *September Songs* (Kurt Weill), and many others. There are three performances—no double casting. The ensemble is open to all classical and jazz voice majors, usually consists of ten members, and is represented by students with varied interests: those who are definitely headed for a career in musical theater; opera and jazz singers who wish to improve their acting skills; and those who have not quite decided which path to choose. Former members of AMTE have appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway, national tours, regional theater, films, TV, etc.

**Musical Theater Lab** meets for two hours per week during the fall semester only. This ensemble is in format very similar to the first semester of AMTE with the main goals being that students learn solid musical theater technique and build their musical theater repertory. However, there is no large performance included. There will be a small studio performance at the end of the semester. This ensemble is geared to students who may not be quite ready for AMTE, whose talents may not have been suited to the current AMTE production, who may not wish to be involved in a large performance, or who are unavailable during the spring semester.

The audition will occur during the fall (date TBA), and there are two main parts. They include:

- a singing audition
- a dance/movement audition.

For the singing audition, students must prepare two contrasting pieces from musical theater: one ballad (slow song) and one up-tempo (fast or lively song). Operatic arias will not be accepted. Songs from an operetta will be considered. All songs must be memorized. In some instances a vocal callback might be required. If you have a resume and photo, please present them at the time of the audition. An accompanist will be

provided, though you may feel free to bring your own.

The main callback is a dance call during which the choreographer judges the student's ability to move or actually dance. Dance is not a requirement for admission to this ensemble, and people should still consider auditioning even though they might not have dance training. Many students who cannot dance have been taken into the ensemble, but dance ability is obviously a plus.

If you have any questions about the musical theater ensembles, please feel free to email Carolyn Marlow at [momsmarlow@aol.com](mailto:momsmarlow@aol.com) (please type "Musical Theater Ensembles" in the subject line).