

A SINGER'S SELF-INVENTORY

With the assistance of professionals across the field, OPERA America has compiled a list of important skills and traits for the professional singer. Please note that the selfinventory provided is not a definitive list. We encourage you to seek the advice of your personal network (teachers, coaches, professional contacts) in considering other important areas of study.

As you consult with your personal network to assess your skill levels, you can begin to define your goals and priorities. While such an exercise cannot generate a foolproof formula for success, it can be a starting point for an organized approach to the information you will receive regarding your career.

- What are my strengths?
- Which organizations are seeking singers at my level?
- Of my weaknesses, which are best addressed in a private lesson or coaching setting? Which are best addressed in the classroom or in the context of a formal training program?
- What kinds of performance experiences do I need to add to my portfolio?
- Which of my skills and attitudes require independent work? What is the best setting for me to work on these areas?

It is our hope that you will utilize your inventory to set personal learning goals for any situation — whether a degree granting program, a young artist program or a cover assignment at a major opera house.

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Vocal and Musical Skills

- Ability to learn a score/basic musical skills
- Beautiful sound
- Individual artistry
- Solid vocal technique
- Use of vocal coloring
- Vocal expressiveness
- _____
- _____
- _____

Dramatic Skills

- Ability to move well
- Ability to research/study a character
- Ability to take direction
- Acting skills
- Body awareness
- Charisma
- Engaging stage persona
- Facial expression/focus
- Role/text interpretation
- Versatility
- _____
- _____
- _____

Related Skills/Areas of Knowledge

- Dance skills
- Knowledge of opera's traditions
- Knowledge of related areas (history, art, etc.)
- Languages (comprehension)
- Languages (diction)
- Piano skills
- _____
- _____
- _____

Business Skills

- Ability to manage own finances
- Ability to negotiate
- Ability to set goals and plan strategically
- Audition skills
- Marketing and promotional skills
- Networking skills
- Writing skills
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Traits

- Ability to assess feedback
- Ability to build and maintain relationships
- Ability to establish a realistic workload
- Ability to identify problems rationally
- Ability to live with rejection
- Collegial behavior
- Confidence
- Dependability
- Discipline
- Drive
- Intellectual curiosity
- Knowledge of one's own limitations
- Mental health
- Perseverance
- Professional demeanor
- _____
- _____
- _____

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For more information on OPERA America's resources for singers,
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