



How to Submit A Video Audition for a Young Actor Role in Northern Stage's *The Sound of Music*

STEP 1: Email Education Department Manager, Shelby Connolly (sconnolly@northernstage.org), to be added to the in-person audition wait list. If anyone releases their audition appointment for Saturday, June 1, you will be contacted and added to the in-person auditions schedule. In the meantime, please prepare and submit a video audition.

PLEASE NOTE: *Video submissions are due by **Thursday, May 30**. Any submissions sent after 11:59 PM on May 30 will not be considered for casting.*

STEP 2: Read the audition packet thoroughly. The audition packet can be found on the Northern Stage Website, and is also linked [HERE](#). This is where you will find character descriptions, and information about the time commitment if you are cast in the show.

STEP 3: Choose either a personal song from a Rogers & Hammerstein musical OR the provided selection of “Edelweiss” at the end of the packet and rehearse it.

STEP 4: Choose ONE character you are passionate about (even if you are between age ranges), and memorize the “scene” side associated with that character, provided at the end of the packet.

STEP 5: Prepare your headshot and resume. A resume template can be found on the Northern Stage website if you need one. Headshots should be front facing, clear images of your face.

STEP 6: (Preparing to Record) Find a quiet room that has very little or no background noise. TV's, fans, running water and air conditioning can be distracting. Make sure you are taping in front of a plain wall and that the main light source comes from behind the camera. Try to position yourself a few feet away from the wall to avoid shadows. Your camera should ideally sit on a tripod to maintain a steady image. Record a test sample and see how it looks and sounds on the computer first to make final adjustments before taping the scenes. If you can't see or hear yourself well, we won't be able to either.

STEP 7: (Recording) Record your audition, starting with a slate, then your song selection, then your scene selection, and end with a simple "thank you". The video should be one continuous clip.

PLEASE NOTE: Videos must be **NO LONGER than 5 minutes**, including the beginning "slate", no exceptions.

Guidelines for all three of these elements are listed below:

1. The "Slate"

- a. Start by zooming the camera out as wide as possible for a full body shot (you should be standing for your entire video audition), then zoom in for your medium headshot (chest up). Look directly into the camera and state clearly:
 - i. Your full name
 - ii. The title of the song you will be singing
 - iii. The character name you will be reading for

EXAMPLE:

"Hello, my name is Shelby Connolly, and I will be singing "Something Wonderful" from The King and I, and reading for Louisa Von Trapp."

2. The Song

- a. Sing a 1-2 minute cut of your song selection.
- b. The Director will be looking for clear acting beats during your performance.
- c. We HIGHLY recommend singing with a live accompanist (pianist) or instrumental track. This is to determine if you can match pitch and tempo. Vocal coaches listed in the audition packet may be available to assist you in your audition. Instrumental tracks may be found on Itunes or even Youtube. If you absolutely cannot provide an accompanist or instrumental track to sing along to, acapella will suffice.

3. The Scene

- a. Perform the provided scene selection associated with the character you have chosen. We ask that these very short scenes be memorized, but you can hold the scene print out in your hand if necessary- make sure not to hold it in front of your face!
- b. A parent or friend should read the opposite lines with you off camera. In the audition room there would be a “reader” doing the same thing. Have them stand very close to the camera. Direct your lines to your reading partner so that your eye line is not into the camera, but just slightly off, connecting with your reading partner’s eyes.

STEP 8: Upload your video audition as a video to either the Youtube or Vimeo platform. Title the video *“First & Last Name”, “Age”, VIDEO AUDITION*. Edit the settings on the video so it is private content, only viewable via a sharable link. **You must make sure the video can be accessed via a shareable link.**



STEP 9: Send the following attachments, link, and information in an email titled “**Sound of Music Young Actor Video Audition: [Name of Student]**” to Education Department Manager, Shelby Connolly (sconnolly@northernstage.org) by **THURSDAY, MAY 30**.

1. Full Name of Student auditioning
2. Age of Student auditioning (as of June 1)
3. Parent Names of Student auditioning
4. Email contact of parent(s)
5. LINK to student’s video audition (video file attachments will not be accepted)
6. Attached Headshot and Resume of student auditioning

You will receive an email confirmation that your video audition has been received. If you submit a video audition but are then moved from the waitlist to the in-person auditions, you should prepare your materials for the in-person audition. The Director will review any submitted video auditions before making a “Callbacks” list the evening of June 1, which will be distributed via email that evening before the callbacks session on Sunday, June 2. If you receive a callback, please make sure you are available to show up in person for the callbacks on June 2, and review “Do-Re-Mi” provided at the end of the audition packet.

PLEASE NOTE: *If any of these guidelines are not met, your video audition submission will be considered incomplete and will not be considered for casting.*

If you have any questions about submitting a video audition, contact Education Department Manager, Shelby Connolly, at sconnolly@northernstage.org.