

SCORE PREPARATION for ROLE STUDY

1) Create/obtain a full p/vo score that you can mark up

-For productions (usually musical theater) in which you're provided a voice-only score, request/obtain the p/vo, and make a study copy.]

2) If the language is one in which you're not fluent, **obtain a word-for-word translation of the libretto:**

- **Share a copy with your pianist and me**
- **Read the libretto independently of the musical score** out loud in both languages.
- **This process should be repeated**, with and without an excellent recording of the piece, **until fluency in the story and the language of the show** is achieved.
- **You will probably need to continue refining this work even as you're learning the music.**

3) Highlight your entire role:

- Read everyone's words (story-fashion) as you do the highlighting.
- **Write in any English you need** as you're reading along.
- **Write in any additional needs such as tempo and quality markings** you don't already know.
- **Use separate colors to highlight** if you are singing multiple roles or a role plus chorus (consider keeping your chorus color consistent between shows).

4) Create a personal index form for your score including the name of your role(s) and all the SCENES in which you appear as that character:

[Example] Falstaff (Nanetta)

Act One, Scene i pp 7- 14; 23; 36-157.....

Act One, Scene xiv pp 221 - 1,329; 1,349; 1,357 - 1,359...**

- If you sing multiple roles, do the same for each character
- If you're also singing chorus, do the same

****If your character is onstage but not singing in the scene, you still need to know the music you're not singing.** You may indicate the singing pages with special font within the master list, or create an additional list of singing pages only. Whichever you choose, expect to be ready on the whole scene in coachings and rehearsals.

5) Notate approximate timings for each scene you're in:

- If you're onstage but singing less than half the scene, make an extra notation of your actual singing time.

6) Create a personal edition of the score and the libretto with any lead-in material:

- **Share copies with your coach and for me.**

7) Once you are rather familiar with the material, attempt to transcribe your words from memory:

- Refine and check your work until you have **your own accurate libretto to work from.**
- **When words/phrases repeat, use underlining and numbering to show direct repetitions and section repeats.**
- **Use this document during coaching and lessons.**
- If you need **notations to remember rhythms, pitches or other cues**, this is the document in which to put them.
- If you're preparing a crossover piece or a musical, **be sure to write out all your spoken words** as well as your sung words

8) As you are study the story and the role, answer:

- What function does/functions your character serve in the story?
- What specific characteristics/qualities/affects can your character express?
(find opposites and/or adjacents)