

# Mississippi State University – Department of Music

## Choral Audition Questions

### 1. TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELF.

This question seems easier than it is.... "How do you reduce your whole life to a few sentences?" Of course you want to demonstrate that you are friendly and studious, but try also to say something memorable here that really makes you different from other college applicants. It is hard to avoid commonplace answers like "I'm friendly" or "I'm a good student." Can you sing a note longer than anyone can in your current choir? Do you have a huge collection of Pez dispensers? Do you have unusual cravings for sushi?

### 2. WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY?

Be specific when answering this, and show that you have done your research. Also, avoid answers like "I want to make a lot of money" or "Graduates of your college get good job placement." **You want to highlight your intellectual interests**, not your materialistic desires. What specifically about the college distinguishes it from other schools you are considering?

### 3. HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR INSTRUMENT WITH A PRIVATE TEACHER?

Faculty members want to know and be able to access your music instruction history. Be prepared to name your private teachers and state the how long you study with them.

### 4. HAVE YOU HAD ANY PRIVATE INSTRUCTION IN PIANO?

### 5. HOW MUCH MUSIC THEORY HAVE YOU STUDIED?

### 6. WHO IN YOUR LIFE HAS MOST INFLUENCED YOU?

There are other variations of this question: Who is your hero? What historical or fictional character would you most like to emulate? This can be an awkward question if you have not thought about it, so spend a few minutes considering how you would answer. Identify a few real, historical, and fictional characters that you admire, and be prepared to articulate WHY you admire them.

### 7. WHAT WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO OUR DEPARTMENT, CAMPUS, AND COMMUNITY?

You will want to be specific when answering this question. An answer like "I'm hard-working" is rather bland and generic. Think about what it is that makes you uniquely you. What exactly will you bring to diversify the college's community?

### 8. TELL ME ABOUT A CHALLENGE THAT YOU OVERCAME.

This question is designed to assess your problem solving skills. When confronted with a challenge, how do you handle the situation? College will be full of challenges, so MSU wants to make sure that we enroll students who can handle them.

### 9. WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN IN YOUR FREE TIME?

"Hangin' out" and "chillin'" is a weak answer for this question. College life **NOT** all work. The faculty wants to attract students who will do interesting and productive things even when they are not studying. Do you write, hike or play tennis? Use a question such as this one to show that you are well rounded with a variety of

### 10. WHAT DO YOU SEE YOURSELF DOING 10 YEARS FROM NOW?

You do not need to pretend that you have your life figured out if you get this question. No student entering college can accurately predict every aspect off their future. However, we do want to see that you have given it some thought.

### **11. DOES YOUR HIGH SCHOOL RECORD ACCURATELY REFLECT YOUR EFFORT AND ABILITY?**

In the interview, you often have an opportunity to explain a bad grade or a bad semester. Be careful with this issue -- you do not want to come across as a whiner or as someone who blames others for a low grade. However, if you really did have extenuating circumstances, let the college know.

### **12. IF YOU COULD DO ONE THING IN HIGH SCHOOL DIFFERENTLY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

A question like this can turn sour if you make the mistake of dwelling on things you regret. Try to put a positive spin on it. Perhaps you've always wondered if you would have enjoyed acting or music. Maybe you would have liked to give the student newspaper a try. Maybe, in retrospect, studying Chinese might have been more in line with your career goals than Spanish. A good answer shows that you didn't have the time in high school to explore everything that is of interest to you.

### **13. DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR US?**

You can almost guarantee that your interviewer will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions. Make sure you have some, and make sure your questions are thoughtful and specific to the particular college. Avoid questions like "when is the application deadline?" or "how many majors do you have?" This information is both uninteresting and readily available on the school's webpage. Come up with some probing and focused questions: "What would graduates of your college say was the most valuable thing about their four years here?" "I read that you offer a major in interdisciplinary studies. Could you tell me more about that?"