

Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra

Showcase FAQ (Updated 5/8/24)

What is *Showcase*?

Showcase is the term for a concert-style, on-book read-through of a full-length musical theatre production. It is an experience created for performance practice which involves full chorus, full orchestra, and designated principal roles. All showcase rehearsals and performance take place with minimal rehearsal – typically three days or less. Performances are open to the public.

Who can participate?

Actors, singers, instrumentalists, collaborative pianists, directors, conductors, and enthusiastic theatre lovers are encouraged to participate!

Anyone with interest can apply regardless of age or experience. Due to the fast-paced nature of rehearsal and performance, we *suggest* the following:

- High school age and above (it is highly recommended for students to have strong music reading skills)
- Orchestra & Principal Roles: Must be able to read music and perform at a high school regional level (previous experience in musical theatre ensembles is strongly encouraged)
- Chorus: The ability to read music is strongly encouraged

Do I need to apply in order to participate?

Yes. Every participant will need to apply for every show, regardless of experience. Application links are sent by email and take 5 minutes to complete. Applications will be open 1-2 months prior to Showcase.

How much does it cost?

Applications are always free to submit! Once approved, applicants are encouraged to pay what they can to help offset costs and create sustainability for the organization (\$30; financial assistance available).

For instruments with heavy cartage, the participation fee is waived (percussion/drums, harp, keyboards, acoustic & electric bass doubles).

What is the *typical* schedule of a Showcase?

Thursday	5:00-10:00 PM: Leads Rehearsal
Friday	6:00-10:00 PM: Orchestra Rehearsal
Saturday:	
8:30-9:00	Chorus Check In
9:00-12:45	Chorus Rehearsal
12:30-1:30	Lunch (OYO)
1:30-5:30	Dress Rehearsal (Leads, Chorus & Orchestra Combined)
5:30-6:30	Dinner (Catered or OYO)
7:00	Showcase Performance
After Showcase:	Strike venue; Participant Reception (location TBA)

This schedule is subject to change to reflect the difficulty of the music.

Can I promote my role/participation online?

YES! Showcase rights have been fully purchased. Information and photos from our Showcases can be shared widely on social media.

How are productions selected?

Shows throughout the entire musical theatre canon are eligible for performance, and are selected by the Artistic Director. AZMTO will try to balance traditional & modern selections. AZMTO cannot perform shows with current licensing restrictions. Shows that offer lots of roles, a busy ensemble, a large orchestration, and accessible singing/playing for one day's work will be given primary consideration.

WARNING: Shows may contain language or adult themes, and some shows may reference dated and non-“PC” cultural elements. These shows will be selected delicately. AZMTO will always try to abide by licensing rules while crafting inclusive authenticity in its storytelling.

Where are Showcases held?

Showcases are held in the greater Phoenix area, and will be announced through applications and emails.

How & when do I get music?

Music is available once participants have confirmed their place with payment to AZMTO.

Chorus & Leads: Music will be distributed digitally when possible via e-reader or tablet. This music is pre-marked, and will expire the day after the event.

Most participants will need a digital PDF reader/device to use on the day of the Showcase. If you do not have access to one, there are a small number of paper scores provided from the licensing company (first-come, first-served).

Orchestra: Arrange to collect your physical score directly from the Artistic Director. A list of cuts & adjustments will be provided soon after score distribution starts.

What equipment should orchestra players bring?

Orchestra members should bring a music stand (only if they have one), music & instrument(s), anything the score requires (mutes, pedals, mallets, reeds, etc.) and the following:

Guitars: 100-200 watt amplifier & labeled cables/extension cord, guitar stand, pedalboard

Keyboard: 100-200 watt amplifier & labeled cables/extension cord, bench, keyboard stand, additional speaker/monitor if desired

Percussion: Trap table/towels, sticks/mallets, tension adjustment tools, maintenance tools as needed, coordinate with other percussionists to bring instruments from home (labeled if possible!)

Rhythm (Drum Kit): Ways to temper the volume/acoustic of kit if necessary, coordinate with other percussionists to bring instruments from home (labeled if possible!), trap table/towels, sticks/mallets, tension adjustment tools, maintenance tools as needed

What if a scheduling conflict comes up between the application and the Showcase?

Participants may drop out if necessary, but the only refunds allowed are for a verified Covid illness. A submission of the application and a payment to AZMTO assumes that there is full intent to participate.

Can I observe a Showcase without participating?

Yes! Showcases are open to audience members, and tickets are made available through our website (www.azmto.org), our email newsletter, and our social media platforms.

Do I have to be a member of AZMTO to apply?

No. There is currently no formal “membership” to AZMTO. All Showcases are *apply-when-you-can* events with zero commitment. This format helps AZMTO cast shows on a rotational basis with new and interested members of the community, according to the natural ebbs and flows of the performance calendar year.

What are your casting considerations?

AZMTO looks for people who can be trusted to sing and play their roles as seamlessly as possible. Experience and skill level will be valued over age/“type” or physical “fit”. AZMTO intends to create a balance of well-known and newly-discovered talent in its casting.

Leads are selected based on the merit of the application, vocal strength, innate musical ability, and previous knowledge of the show. Shows are open to all people and all communities, including the BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and IDD communities.

Sometimes, the best way to a lead role is by building musical and professional relationships through other means, such as Underscore events or Spotlight roles. Spotlight roles are step-out solos from secondary characters and bit parts. They’re plentiful in most musicals and are a great chance to have a little more involvement in the plot without the added pressure of a lead role.

Roles will increase in size and scope as AZMTO’s relationships deepen with its casting pool, but will also be given rotationally to allow a wide number of deserving candidates to participate on our stage.

What if I don’t get selected?

All applicants will be informed of the results of their application. If you aren’t chosen, don’t be discouraged – there’s always next time! Showcases will occur throughout the year and updates will always be sent via email and through social media. Keep practicing and keep trying!

Many instrument chairs are in high demand, and it’s common for shows to have more applications than available space. AZMTO does its best to rotate roles & chairs while maintaining the highest performance quality possible.

Can I record my experience in a Showcase?

You may take pictures at a Showcase, *but be careful*: unless permitted by AZMTO leadership, pictures cannot have any sheet music or published materials in them.

The public sharing of show recordings longer than 30 seconds could jeopardize Showcase entirely, and will be cause for expulsion from AZMTO events, groups, and activities. AZMTO has created avenues to share photos and videos privately among other participants.

Occasionally, licenses grant permission for a video recording to be made for in-house archival purposes only. **Sharing these recordings online without permission, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited.**

Can a role I play in a Showcase go on my resume?

Yes! As long as you're presenting the full material in a licensed performance environment, your accomplishments can be added to your resume.

Is there a way to network with AZMTO friends after the event?

Yes! We encourage all participants to hang out together after any Showcase event. This allows people to network and relive the best moments from the day!

A private, invite-only Facebook group called **AZMTO Show & Tell** is available for participants from our Showcases. Here, you can connect with new friends, share photos, and network about future projects.

What leadership is present for a Showcase?

Showcases rehearsals and performances will be run by a conductor/music director and a chorus master, with the help of exceptional rehearsal pianists. Each show will feature different leaders on rotation (similar to participants). Having different leadership helps participants connect with the top musical minds in town!

If you are interested in a leadership role, please contact stephen@azmto.org.

Why does the Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra use digital scores?

Digital scores are the best way to blend sustainability with the ease of communication. As technology advances, AZMTO believes that all musicians should embrace its power to create simpler and more effective ways to collaborate.

Most licensing companies now provide the opportunity to create shared digital workspaces with cast & crew. When this option is available, AZMTO will take advantage in order to optimize rehearsal updates in real time.

Participants may still opt to use paper scores on a first-come, first-served basis, and orchestra instrumentalists are required to read from licensed hard copies.

What is your policy on illness?

AZMTO believes that people who are feeling sick or unwell should stay home, regardless of their desire to participate. AZMTO encourages the use of Covid-19 rapid tests on the onset of appropriate symptoms, and will ask participants to test if they develop symptoms at an AZMTO event. Ultimately, everybody (participants & audience) is encouraged to take the precautions that are best for them, and utilize common sense on a regular basis (frequent hand-washing, covering their mouth to cough, and using masks *as appropriate*) to stop the spread of disease.

What do I wear if I'm performing in a Showcase?

Casual clothes that are predominantly:

- Colors that complement the theatre show's primary logo (**Ex:** Les Misérables would be silvers, blues, and reds), AND/OR:
- Combinations of black, white, or gray

Costumes are never required, but DIY at-home costumes/accessories do help to distinguish the show's characters to audiences, and are encouraged for leads and spotlight roles.

Does AZMTO need volunteers?

Yes! Please take less than 5 minutes and complete our volunteer survey. THANK YOU for supporting the arts!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oDq7Vkm7RB5i1wptbR_puLO8kdO830UBQKxXI10yYw4/edit

Questions?

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