



Frequently Asked Questions

Children and Youth Arts Musical Theatre Programs, Fall 2019

Q: Is it REALLY okay to write down that I will only accept a certain character or characters on my Audition Form? Will that hurt my chances of being cast, or make me seem ungrateful?

A: It is TOTALLY FINE to list that you will only accept a certain character on your Audition Form! We fully understand that our students have to make hard choices sometimes between our programs and other opportunities, and receiving a certain role or roles may make an impact on which program you choose to do. Indicating that you only want to play a certain character or characters will NOT affect our staff's opinion of you, or lower your chances of being cast in that role or roles. However, we ask that students make this decision PRIOR to auditions, rather than dropping out after casting, which affects the entire program negatively. Also, please note that we take this very seriously, and if you are not right for the part or parts you have written that you will only accept, you will not be cast at all – so please don't take this decision lightly!

Q: I have more than one child auditioning, but I only want them to all do the same program. If one is not cast in the Troupe show *Matilda*, I would either prefer that they all not participate at all, or that they all participate in the Companies show *Broadway Nutcracker* – Is this OK? How can I let CFCArts know about this preference?

A: We completely understand it when families would rather not split up siblings among programs! Please note that **this season, all Companies participants are invited to participate in the Troupe show *Matilda* as Schoolchildren! (Small additional costume fee and a few extra rehearsal dates TBA)** However, if this still doesn't help you...

Please indicate on each of your children's' Audition Forms whether you would prefer that if one is not cast, A) all are not cast and do not participate at all, OR B) all are enrolled in the non-cut program *Broadway Nutcracker* (Musical Theatre Companies) and we will honor this request. However, we ask that families make this decision PRIOR to auditions, rather than pulling students out after casting, which affects the entire program negatively.

Q: I am auditioning for more than one program. Do I need to prepare more than one song, or prepare differently for each program?

A: The same 16- to 32-bar selection from a musical theatre song (no *Matilda*, please) will do for both programs – the Musical Theatre Troupe (*Matilda*) and the Musical Theatre Company (*Broadway Nutcracker*.) Please don't forget your sheet music! Tracks are not permitted, but we will have accompanists present! Also, for both programs (Troupe and Company), acting casting decisions will be made based on cold readings from the script of *Matilda*.

Q: What are cold readings?

A: Unprepared readings of scenes from a script. There is no way to prepare for cold readings except for familiarizing yourself with the script of *Matilda*. We do not expect students to read flawlessly or memorize anything, and we will be very forgiving of stumbling over words, but reading over the script can definitely help students be more prepared. We are looking for physical, facial, and vocal expression and characterization in cold readings, not perfect reading-out-loud skills!

Q: Will it hurt my chances of being cast in *Matilda* (Troupe) if I also audition for *Broadway Nutcracker* (Companies) or another CFCArts program such as the Children's or Youth Vocal Ensembles or Young Artists Orchestra?

A: NO WAY! We encourage all students to audition for both Musical Theatre programs and/or any CFCArts program, and this in NO WAY will impact your casting. Also, please note that **this season, all Companies participants are invited to participate in the Troupe show *Matilda* as Schoolchildren! (Small additional costume fee and a few extra rehearsal dates TBA)**

Q: Can I be cast in BOTH *Matilda* AND *Broadway Christmas*?

A: Exciting news! **This season, all Companies participants are invited to participate in the Troupe show *Matilda* as Schoolchildren! (Small additional costume fee and a few extra rehearsal dates TBA)** However, due to the rigorous rehearsal schedule for the main cast, students in the main cast of *Matilda* will not be able to participate in *Broadway Christmas*.

Q: Do I have to stay for the entire three-hour audition block?

A: Absolutely. All auditionees for both Musical Theatre programs must stay for the duration of their audition block. However, if asked to attend callbacks, students may be released any time during the callback block at the discretion of the staff.

Q: What forms do I need to print out and bring with me?

A: The Audition Form, Conflict Form, Liability/Image/Medical Release Form, Musical Theatre Participant Packet. All can be found on the CFCArts website and in your email.

Q: When will I know if I get a callback?

A: No later than 10 PM on Saturday, August 3, by email.

Q: When will I know if I will be cast?

A: No later than 12 PM on Monday, August 5, by email.

Q: Can my parent/guardian/sibling/friend watch my audition or callback?

A: Unfortunately, no. Due to safety and security procedures, all non-auditionees must wait in the lobby. This policy remains for all rehearsals and backstage, with the exception of parent volunteers cleared and approved via background check. (However, NO parents/guardians/siblings/friends are allowed in the audition/callback room even if they are on staff or are cleared and approved volunteers!)

Q: Where are auditions and callbacks?

A: Auditions and callbacks will take place at Calvary Orlando, 1199 Clay Street, Winter Park. There will be signage both externally and internally, as well as staff internally to help direct students and parents. A map of the Calvary Campus can be found here:
<https://calvaryorlando.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/CampusMap0715.jpg>

Q: What do I bring/wear for auditions?

A: Please see below!

- Memorized 16 to 32-bar selection from any musical theatre song. (Please do not sing selections from *Matilda* or popular music.)
- Sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. Tracks may not be used.
- Water bottle. Mess-free, nut-free snacks are permitted.
- Proper attire for a dance audition. Dance or athletic shoes required with full soles and good traction (no pointe, tap, or partial sole lyrical shoes). No restrictive attire, open-toed shoes, sandals, heels, or skirts/dresses without leggings or shorts beneath. Please dress as professionally and respectfully as possible while allowing full range of movement.
- Completely filled out forms: Audition Form, Conflict Form, Liability/Image/Medical Release Form, Musical Theatre Participant Packet. (On CFCArts website and in email.)

Q: What do I bring/wear for callbacks?

A: Please see below!

- Water bottle. Mess-free, nut-free snacks are permitted.
- Proper attire for a dance audition. Dance or athletic shoes required with full soles and good traction (no pointe, tap, or partial sole lyrical shoes). No restrictive attire, open-toed shoes, sandals, heels, or skirts/dresses without leggings or shorts beneath.
- If you have any skills in pointe, lyrical, tap, acro, tumbling, or any type of multicultural dance, please bring those shoes and be prepared to demonstrate skills.

Q: When will auditions and callbacks take place?

A: Please see below!

BLOCK A – Friday, August 2, 5:30-8:30 PM

BLOCK B – Saturday, August 3, 9 AM-12 PM

BLOCK C – Saturday, August 3, 1-4 PM

BLOCK D – Saturday, August 3, 1-5 PM

CALLBACKS (for Troupe only) – Sunday, August 4, 1-6 PM (Students may be released early)

Q: Do I have to audition for a certain character for *Matilda* or *Broadway Christmas*?

A: No, but it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the characters for both productions. This can be done by viewing the Character Descriptions on the CFCArts website where descriptions and vocal ranges are listed, and by reading the full script of *Matilda*. Character descriptions for both productions will also be emailed to all auditionees.

The script for *Matilda* will be emailed to all auditionees, but the script for *Broadway Christmas* will not as it will not be used during auditions.

Q: I will be unavailable for auditions. Can I send in a video audition?

A: We HIGHLY encourage all students to audition in person. However, if absolutely necessary, students may request to send in a video audition by emailing youth@cfcarts.com. All video auditions must be approved ahead of submission by the CFCArts Education staff.

Please note that it will be difficult to cast students who audition by video for the Troupe show, *Matilda*, unless they are able to attend callbacks on Sunday, August 4. Please contact us ASAP if that may apply to you.

Video auditions are due by 8 PM on Friday, August 2 and, again, must be approved AHEAD OF TIME by the CFCArts Education staff. Video auditions must be emailed as a video file (attachment or Google Drive, or a link to a video-hosting website such as YouTube) to youth@cfcarts.com.

Video auditions must contain:

- Students singing a memorized 16 to 32-bar selection from any musical theatre song with live or track accompaniment. (Please do not sing selections from *Matilda* or popular music, and please do not sing over recorded vocals.)
- Students performing a short dance selection from *Matilda*. A demo video and accompaniment track will be sent to all video auditionees by Wednesday, July 31 at 5 PM.
- Students performing 1-3 short, age-appropriate monologues from *Matilda*, which need not be memorized. A selection of monologues from which to choose for both male and female students of all ages will be sent to all video auditionees by Wednesday, July 31 at 5 PM.

If for any reason a video auditionee will not have access to internet Wednesday, July 31 to Friday, August 2, and needs the above materials ahead of time, please contact us ASAP at youth@cfcarts.com.

Q: What is the most important piece of advice you can give auditionees and their families prior to auditions?

A: There are three:

1. Do NOT forget your sheet music, or appropriate footwear and clothing! (See above for information.)
2. All conflicts with the production schedule below must be fully and completely disclosed at or before the time of audition, although we will be flexible in allowing conflicts to be accepted (within reason in terms of dates and amount) as Excused until **Monday, August 26** to allow for school events to be scheduled. All conflicts after that time will be unexcused and may result in reassignment or reduction of a cast member's lines and/or role, or prohibit a student from participating as a cast member. More information about the CFCArts conflict policy can be found in the Musical Theatre Participant Packet and Children and Youth Arts Procedures; please familiarize yourself with this prior to auditions. Both documents can be found on the CFCArts website and in your email.
3. Address all questions and concerns with CFCArts staff PRIOR to casting!

More Questions? Email youth@cfcarts.com!