

## **SPRING AWAKENING Auditions (April 25, 26)**

**Composer: Duncan Sheik**

Hello to those who are interested in auditioning for *SPRING AWAKENING*. I have had many requests for song ideas for the upcoming auditions and decided to put some thoughts together to help guide you as you prepare in the coming weeks.

The information gathered comes from my own experience and knowledge and a great audition book listed here:

*Rock the Audition; How to prepare for and Get Cast in Rock Musicals* by Sheri Sanders

Publishers:

Hal Leonard Books, 2011

Rock the Audition/Sheri Sanders – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2019

It is a wonderful resource book that you should all think of purchasing if you want to pursue a career in Musical Theatre. Its primary focus, of course, is on the contemporary musical – particular the “Pop/Rock” musical. I highly recommend this book!

*Spring Awakening* is definitely a rock musical, but it is also poetic. Don’t think of it as a pop/rock hybrid, but rather a folk/rock hybrid. The original casting directors for the show asked for songs by the **Beatles, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, and Simon and Garfunkel** because of their exceptional poetic talent. You could sing a song from one of these great artists, but don’t feel limited. There are other contemporary songwriter/poets such as **Tori Amos, Kate Bush, Bjork, Regina Spektor, Ingrid Michaelson, Sara Bareilles and Rufus Wainwright**. They are all wonderful storytellers.

### **THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**

Put some thought into your selection. Listen to these different artists and allow yourself to become inspired by their songwriting. Become knowledgeable about the show. Read the script; study the script; listen to the music and know its history. Come into the audition with as much knowledge as you can. Believe me, it will show during the audition that you are prepared and taking the audition with the utmost importance.

It is tradition to coach a more traditional musical theatre song, but many times when preparing a rock song, there is a disconnect and one doesn’t prepare as thoroughly as one should. Take time to learn the song. **Don’t imitate the original singer!!** Bring yourself to the piece you’ve chosen. There is absolutely no reason to bring in a song to show off how loud, high and long you can sing. No one wants to hear you scream out a song. It is the job of the artistic team to see if you can sing high. The initial audition should let us get interested in you as a person.

*Spring Awakening* is not about belting as high as you can. It is an emotionally driven score so put some thought into thinking about emotionally connecting to the song and allow your voice to be free and open to your choices as an actor.

Above all, bring in good energy. Work on thoughtful and mindful choices and let us see who you are.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

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