

What are Bar Nights?

Three times a term, we host a night where people can come along and sing a musical theatre song for a smaller audience in a less intimidating venue (the ADC bar). The atmosphere is always friendly and uplifting and gives everyone a chance to shine! The most wonderful thing about these shows is that the more intimate setting allows for those less confident performers to feel more comfortable in their singing and eventually move onto principal roles in bigger shows. You never know, any Bar Night participant might just go on to be the next big star of the stage! With a range of performers and songs, you are sure to find something you like in these bar nights.

Bar nights tend to have different themes for each one, with past themes including 'Miscast', 'Heroes and Villains' and collaborations with other theatre societies within Cambridge such as BREAD. Each term these themes will change and will give exciting opportunities to perform songs you never have before!

Auditions

Auditions will be announced for each bar night in advance so you have time to prepare an audition song, and the audition itself normally takes place 5 days before the bar night.

Generally, you should audition with the song you will be performing in the bar night unless you have a reason that you can't/we ask you to sing something else. Auditions are typically held in the ADC Bar itself and work on a drop-in basis. We will be there for 2 hours, so feel free to come and sing your song whenever you like in those 2 hours. Feel free to knock on the door or just come in - but if you hear someone singing, wait till that's over! The ADC Bar is on the second floor of the ADC. If you're coming in from the main entrance, take the stairs up on the left of the lobby/reception, and it's the first door on your right at the top of the stairs. We will provide a speaker and ask you which backing track you would like to use in the audition! You then simply sing your song, and we will try to get back to you by the

end of the day. If you can't make those 2 hours, do not worry – just send a self tape over to jl2404@cam.ac.uk and ej403@cam.ac.uk by 5pm, and you'll be considered just like everyone else.

After Auditions

If you are successful in your audition, we will ask you for your availability and schedule you in for a 10 minute tech slot on the Monday daytime. This is a chance for you to run through your song with a pianist/band and become comfortable with the layout of bar night. I (Jaeyen – your Bar Nights' rep) and/or Eoin (your Musician's rep) will be there throughout tech to answer any questions and ensure things are running smoothly. After this you are free to do as you please, but must be back in the ADC by 7:30pm that night to help set up chairs for our (hopefully sold out) audience. The bar night begins at 8pm! All of this will be relayed to you in an email if you participate in a bar night, but hopefully this gives you a general idea of how things are run.

Do I have to memorize anything for the audition?

Nope! Don't worry if you need to bring prompts/your words with you to a bar night audition! We know how hectic terms can get and sometimes a week just takes you by surprise with how busy it ends up! Coming to the audition needing to see the lyrics on a backing track or have the sheet music with you is completely fine.

Can I sing a self-written song?

Of course! We would particularly encourage any new writing for a bar night (as long as it fits the theme). We love to hear what music people are writing and Bar Nights are an amazing place to showcase it! It is also a great opportunity for those who want to put on their own musical (perhaps at the Fringe or something similar) to meet like-minded creatives who may have a similar idea or be able to help write the music/a script!

Can I sing a non-English song?

Absolutely! Songs in any bar night have no need to be in English. If you would like the audience to have a copy of the lyrics we can print out translations to give out, or alternatively if you would like to share a description of your song before you sing it you're welcome to. Equally, you can just use your performance to tell the story and give no explanation.

Are rights a concern for non-English songs?

Don't worry about the rights when auditioning for bar night. We will make magic happen and sort all of that out.

Can I bring 2 options of songs to get feedback?

You absolutely can! If you were to bring a minute of two songs and ask for feedback in choosing the song you'd like to perform on the night, we can offer up our best advice. We won't ever give unwanted feedback unless asked to.

Anything Else!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to message me at jl2404@cam.ac.uk. Bar nights will be fabulous, fun and exciting this coming year, and we are so excited to see new faces auditioning! Keep an eye on our instagram page @cumtscambridge for more information closer to the time about auditions!