

How to prepare a song for a musical theatre audition

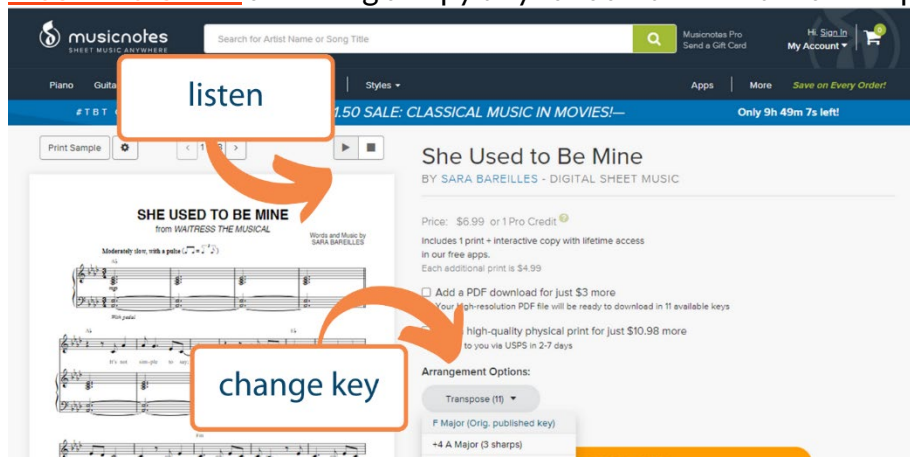
When you audition for a musical, you will likely be asked to prepare either a **16-bar or 32-bar cut from a musical theatre song**. If you're not used to this terminology, it can be confusing...and maybe even a little scary! But not to worry! We are here to break it down for you.

- The word “**cut**” simply means “section.” Instead of singing the entire song, you're being asked to pick a section of the song you want to sing and then to only prepare that specific section. It saves you time, and it also makes the audition faster!
- The phrases “**16-bar**” and “**32-bar**” refer to measures in a musical number. Essentially, you're being asked to prepare 16 or 32 measures of a song. If you read music, this probably makes sense to you.

But if you don't read music, no worries! A general rule is to prepare one verse and one chorus of a song. Another good suggestion is to make sure your cut (or section) lasts a little more than 30 seconds, but not longer than a minute.

A couple of other things to note:

- Unless the audition call says otherwise, always prepare a **musical theatre song** for your audition.
- An audition accompanist (piano player) will always be provided. We ask folks not to sing acapella because **we need to see that you can follow along with the accompaniment**.
- Make sure the music is in a key that's good for your voice. Get sheet music in your key from [Musicnotes.com](https://www.musicnotes.com) and bring a copy to your audition for the accompanist.



The screenshot shows the Musicnotes.com website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links. Below the search bar, there is a promotional banner for a 50% sale on classical music. The main content area displays the product page for "She Used to Be Mine" by Sara Bareilles. The page includes a "listen" button, a "Print Sample" button, and a list of arrangement options. Two orange callout boxes with arrows point to the "listen" button and the "Arrangement Options" section, specifically highlighting the "Transpose (1)" dropdown menu.