

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING REHEARSALS

You will be performing a musical, a type of **play** that tells a story through music, **choreography**, and **dialogue**. Because there are so many parts of a musical, most shows have more than one **author**. The **composer** writes the music and usually works with a **lyricist**, who writes the **lyrics**, or words, for the songs. The **book writer** writes the dialogue (spoken words, or **lines**) and the **stage directions**, which tell the actors what to do onstage and which music cues to listen for. If the book writer and lyricist are the same person, she is often referred to as the **librettist**, since the book and lyrics together are referred to as the **libretto**.

Your director will plan rehearsals so that the cast is ready to give its best performance on **opening night**! Remember to warm up before each rehearsal so that your mind, body, and voice are ready to go. Every rehearsal process is a little bit different, but here is an idea of what you can expect as you begin to work on your show:

Music

Since you're performing a musical, it is important to learn the music during the rehearsal process. Your **music director** will teach the cast all the songs in the show and tell you what to practice at home.

Choreography

Since most musicals include some movement or dance, you'll also be rehearsing choreography. Your **choreographer** will create the dances and teach them to the cast. The music and the choreography help tell the story.

Blocking & Scene Work

Your director will determine where everyone in the cast stands and how they move around the stage. You'll use theater **blocking** terms (downstage left, upstage right, etc.) a lot during this portion of the rehearsal process. You will also practice speaking your lines and work on memorizing them. Rehearsing your part from memory is called being **off-book**. Your director will help you understand the important action in each scene so you can make the best choices for your character's **objective**, or what your character wants.