

Some FAQ's and other thoughts about work as a session singer.

WILL SESSION WORK
PROVIDE ME WITH A
STEADY INCOME?

Truth is there are very few people that can rely solely on session work. However, if you have the skill it is a useful extra source of income and an opportunity to use your creative skills.

IS IT WORTH
PURSUING?

Of course – if you think you have the necessary talent give it a try. Remember there are many levels of required talent from lead vocal to backing vocal. It's important to know your level of skills..

SHOULD I BE ABLE
TO SIGHT-READ ?

Though not always essential, sight-reading music is a valuable asset and will broaden the scope of work available to you.

SHOWREELS – SOME
GOLDEN RULES

- Five minutes maximum - keep extracts reasonably short, 30-40 seconds, enough to show your vocal skills.
- Include a selection of different styles.
- Begin with the most representative example of your voice.
- Always play to your strengths!! Do what you do... well!
- Avoid anything that has taken a very long time to perfect in the studio or can't easily be reproduced in a session.
- Be sure the vocals are clear and not overwhelmed by the backing track.
- Only include 'sound-a-likes' if you excel at them!

LISTEN!

- To commercials – *really LISTEN* to the variety of styles. Note the different vocal attitudes, tone, pace and, importantly, the diction!
- To showreels, their content and how they are constructed. Visit Singers on our website hobsons-international.com

IS IT WORTH
PRACTISING?

Yes always. And of course warming up is vital before a session or an audition, particularly if you have had a recent quiet period.

more...

HOW DO I GET AN AGENT?

The number of budding singers has swelled over the years. Therefore, most agencies are over subscribed and, unless you happen to have the vocal quality they're looking for, it will likely prove a real challenge to find representation.

Nonetheless, there is a list of Musical Contractors and Session Fixers in The Music Week Directory or International Showcase, so once you have made your showreel it's worth a mail-shot. But be prepared to wait for a response as most agencies get inundated every week and, be mindful too, that sadly, not all respond!

DO I HAVE TO BE BASED IN LONDON?

It's not essential, but being available for a session at short notice, is often advantageous and it is the epicentre of the music & entertainment industry, advertising agencies and recording studios! At minimum you should be prepared to travel.