

BMPF 7008: Work Based Learning Project

What technical skills and abilities
make a vocalist employable in the
musical theatre industry?

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Why?

- ❖ My current work in musical theatre.
- ❖ A gap in knowledge.
- ❖ Wider impact.



Henny, J. (2019) A musical director's audition tips - backstage, www.backstage.com. Available at: <https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/role-music-62095/> (Accessed: April 27, 2023).

Afros, E. and Schryer, C.F. (2009) "The genre of syllabus in Higher Education," Journal of English for Academic Purposes, 8(3), pp. 224–233. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeap.2009.01.004>.

Literature Review

Breathing

Alignment and posture

Vocal range

Articulation and diction

Connection to material

Understanding voice qualities

Dynamic variety

Vocal resilience

Strength

BOARDMAN, S.D., 1987. Voice Training For The Musical Theater Singer (broadway), University of Cincinnati.

Mink, C. (2020) 6 musical theater audition tips you should know - backstageC, 6 Ways to Nail Your Next Musical Theater Audition. Available at: <https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/ways-nail-next-musical-theater-audition-4547/> (Accessed: 11 May 2023).

Literature Review



16-32 Bars to show every skill?



Green, K. et al. (2014) 'Trends in Musical Theatre Voice: An analysis of audition requirements for singers', *Journal of Voice*, 28(3), pp. 324–327. doi:10.1016/j.jvoice.2013.10.007.

Cabral, L. (2015) Audition Tips and FAQ from Stages Theatre Company, Stages Theatre Company. Available at: <https://www.stagestheatre.org/audition-tips-and-faq/> (Accessed: 12 July 2023).

Methodology

- ❖ Ontology / Epistemology
- ❖ Method used: Questionnaire
- ❖ Participants were recruited using emails, social media groups, peers.



Damyanov, M. (no date) Mixed Methods Research Guide with examples, Mixed Methods Research Guide With Examples. Available at: <https://dovetail.com/research/mixed-methods-research/#:~:text=Types%20of%20mixed%20method%20research%20designs&text=Designing%20a%20mixed%20methods%20study%20can%20be%20broken%20down%20into,explanatory%20sequential%2C%20and%20exploratory%20sequential>. (Accessed: 22 June 2023).

Dudovskiy, J. (2023) Pragmatism Research Philosophy - Research-Methodology, Research. Available at: https://research-methodology.net/research-philosophy/pragmatism-research-philosophy/#_ftn1 (Accessed: 21 June 2023).

Glasgow, P. (2005) 'Fundamentals of Survey Research Methodology', Mitre Product [Preprint].

This questionnaire is for the purpose of research for an MA in Vocal Pedagogy. *

By answering yes to this question, you consent to the use of your answers for analysis in this research project. All answers will remain anonymous however there is an invitation to participate in a focus group at the end that will require an email address should you choose to participate. All data will be stored on a password-protected file in an online data storage facility in compliance with GDPR.

You have the right to withdraw your consent and participation at any time for any or no reason. If you have any questions or concerns, please email katieellenmusic@gmail.com

Do you consent to all of the above and wish to continue?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Saidin, K. (2016) 'Insider researchers: Challenges & Opportunities', *Proceedings of The ICECRS*, 1(1).
doi:10.21070/picecrs.v1i1.563.

Costley, C. (no date) Key concepts for the insider-researcher - Sage Publications Inc. Available at: https://www.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/32890_Costley_Chap1.pdf (Accessed: 29 June 2023).

Ethics

Insider Researcher

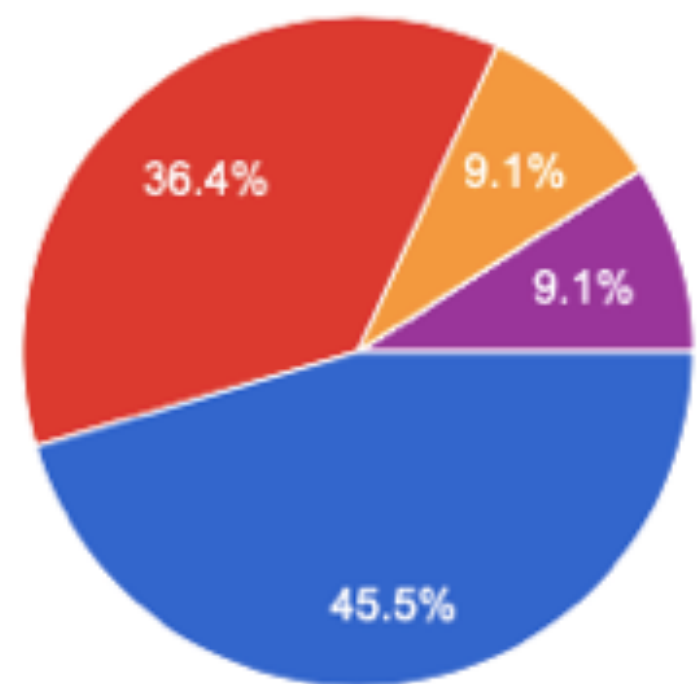
Pros: Prior knowledge and interest

Cons: increased bias and relationships with participants could influence answers.

Findings

Melton, J. (2007) Singing in musical theatre: The training of singers and actors. New York, N.Y: Allworth Press.

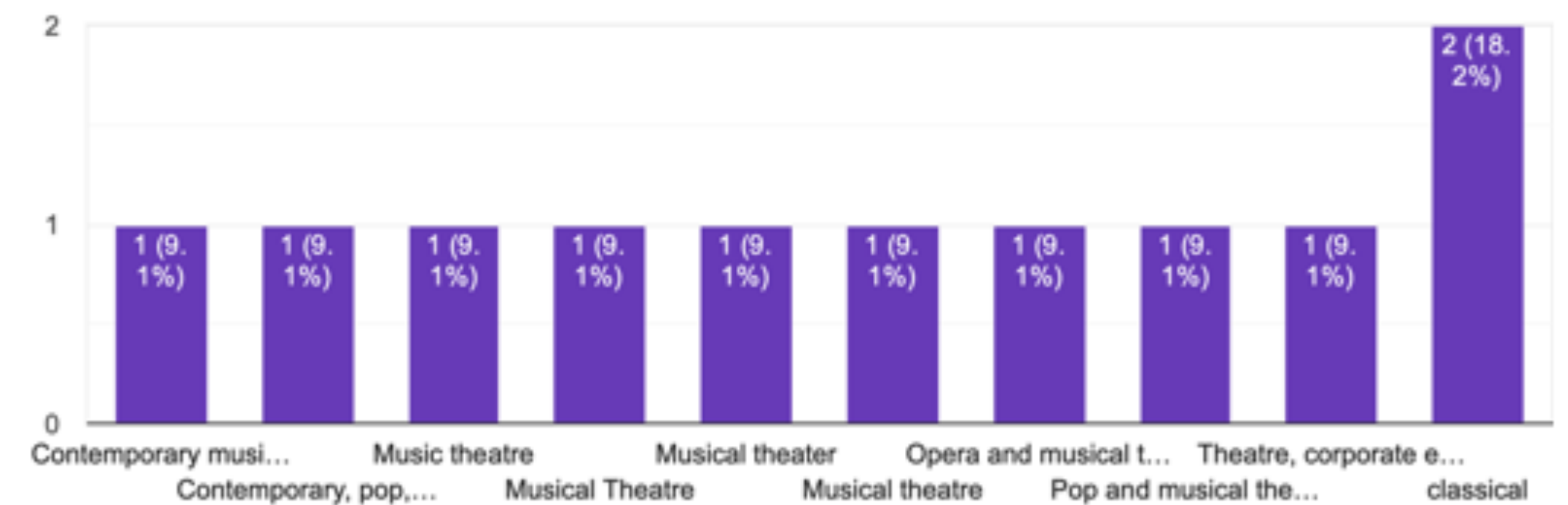




- Musical Director
- Director
- Casting Agent
- Agent
- Other (Please state in next question)

What genre do you typically work in? Please state if more than one.

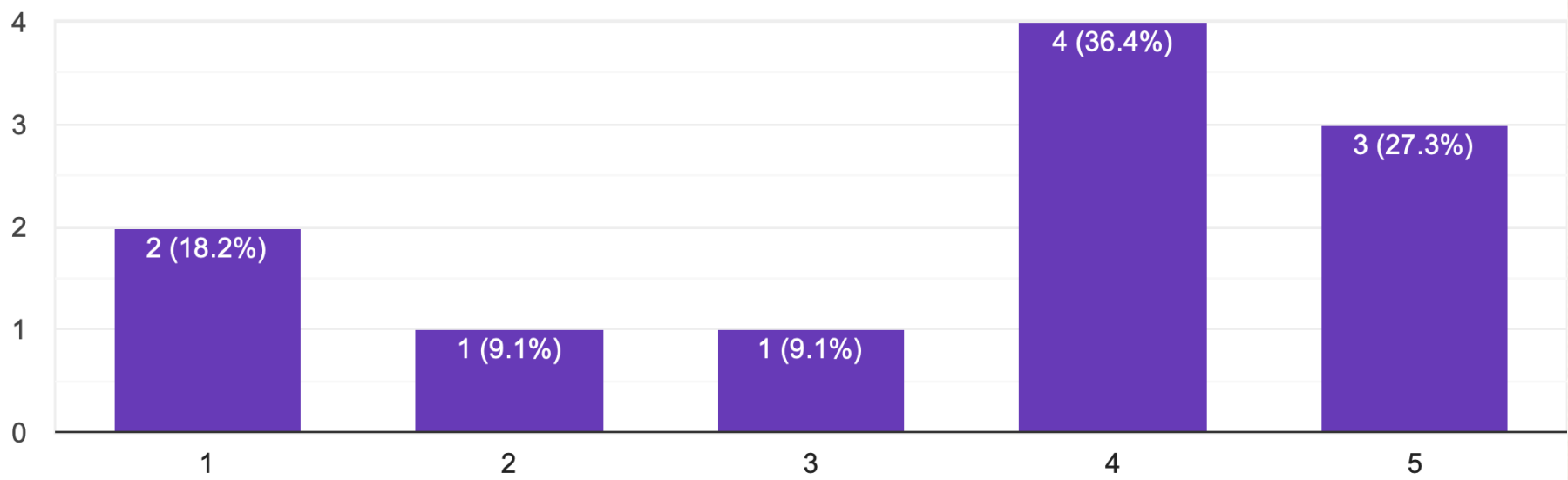
11 responses



Technical skills questions >>

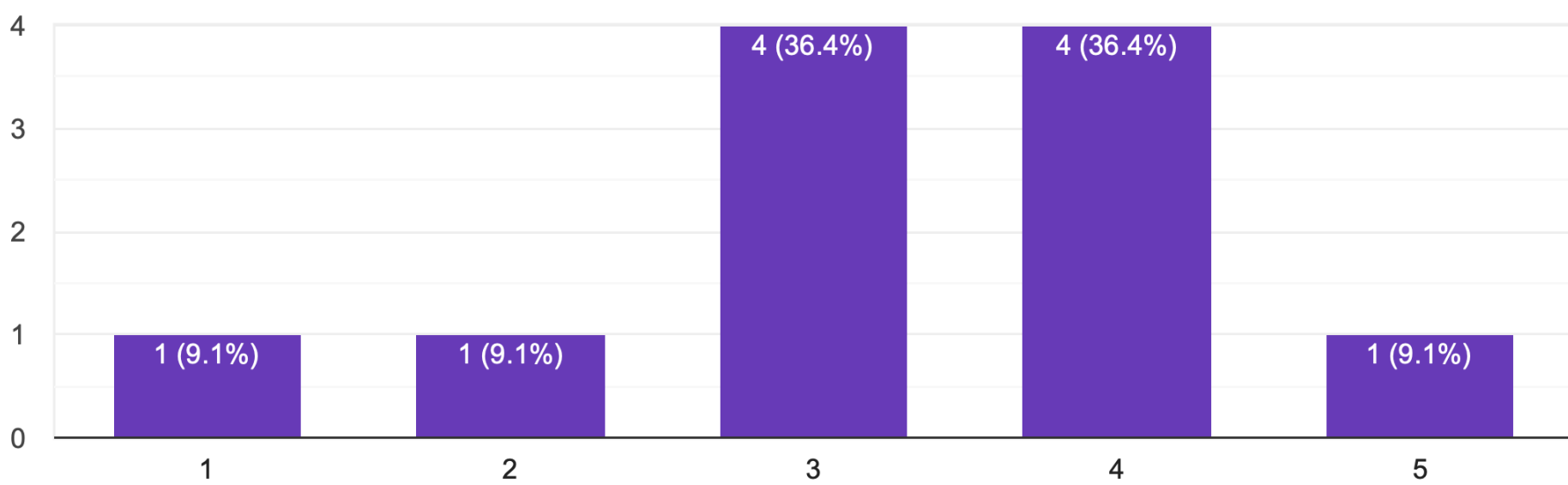
How important is "breathing technique" to you when considering the employment of a vocalist in an audition situation?

11 responses



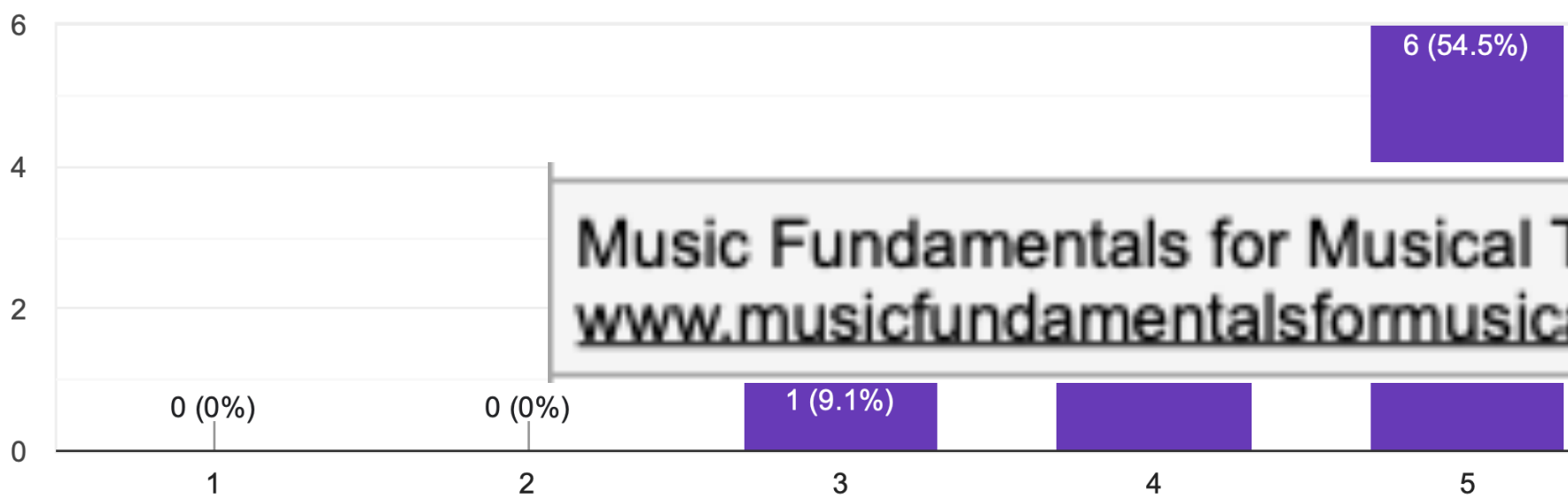
How important is "alignment and posture" to you when considering the employment of a vocalist in an audition situation?

11 responses



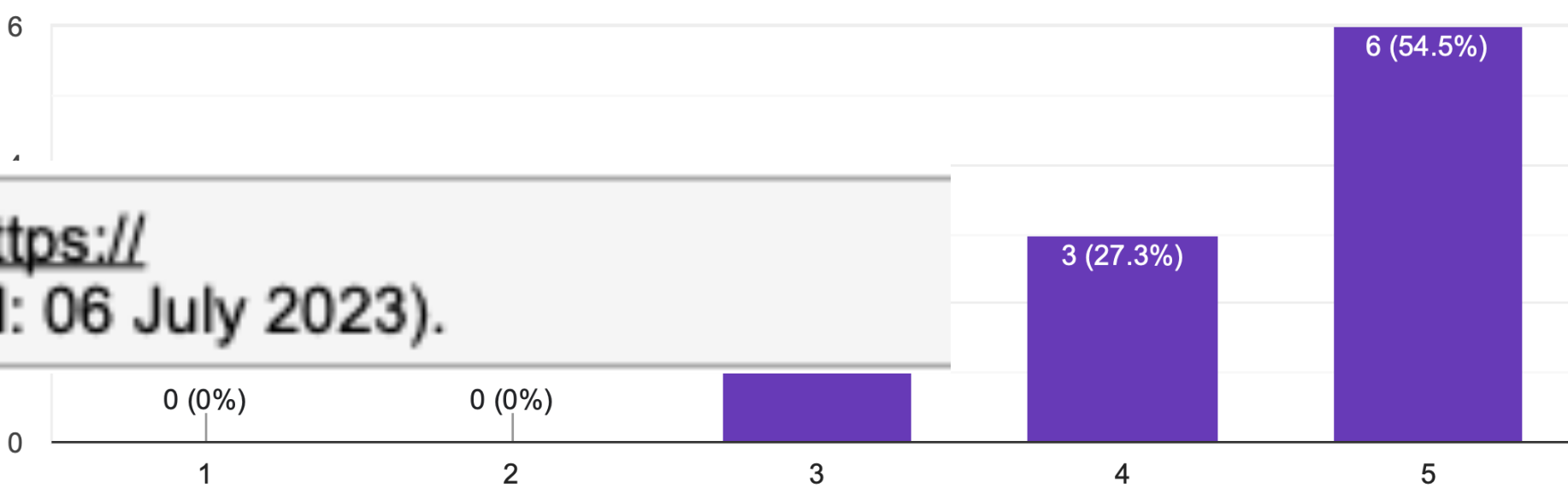
How important is "vocal range" to you when considering the employment of a vocalist in an audition situation?

11 responses



How important is "articulation and diction" to you when considering the employment of a vocalist in an audition situation?

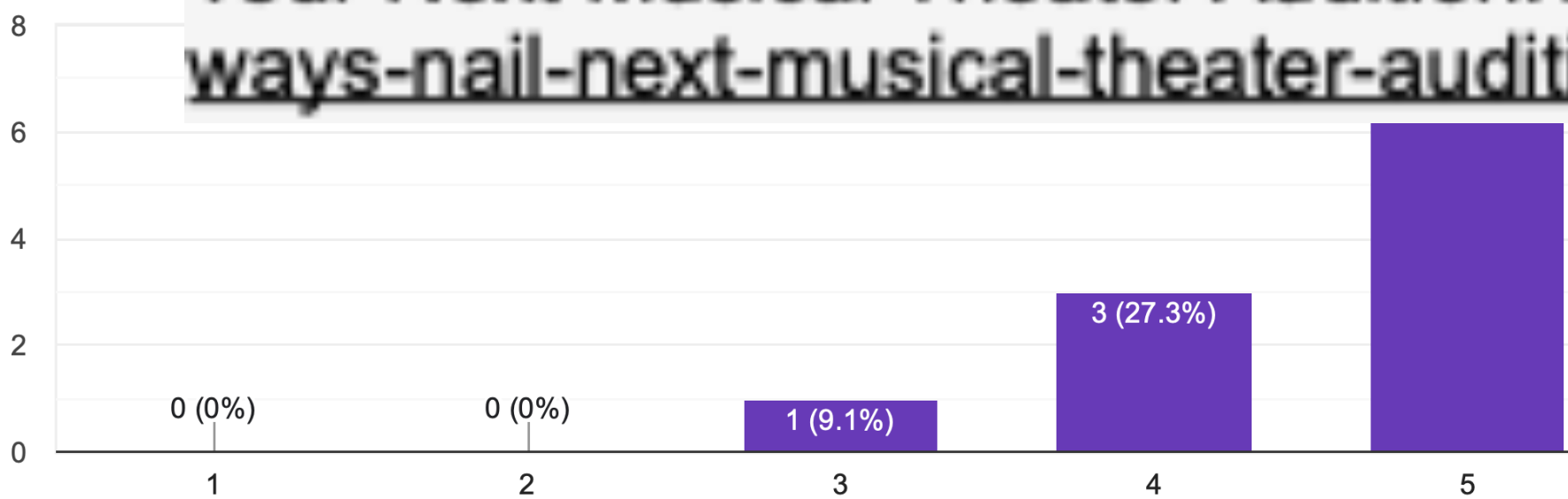
11 responses



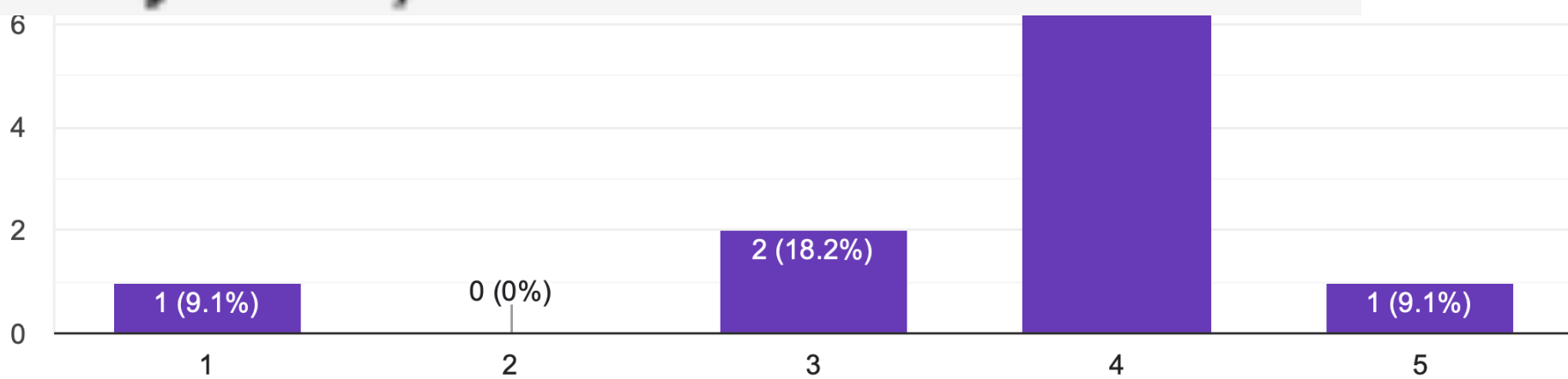
Music Fundamentals for Musical Theatre, (2023). Available at: <https://www.musicfundamentalsformusicaltheatre.com/about> (Accessed: 06 July 2023).

How important is "stage presence" to you when considering the employment of a vocalist in an audition situation?

11 responses

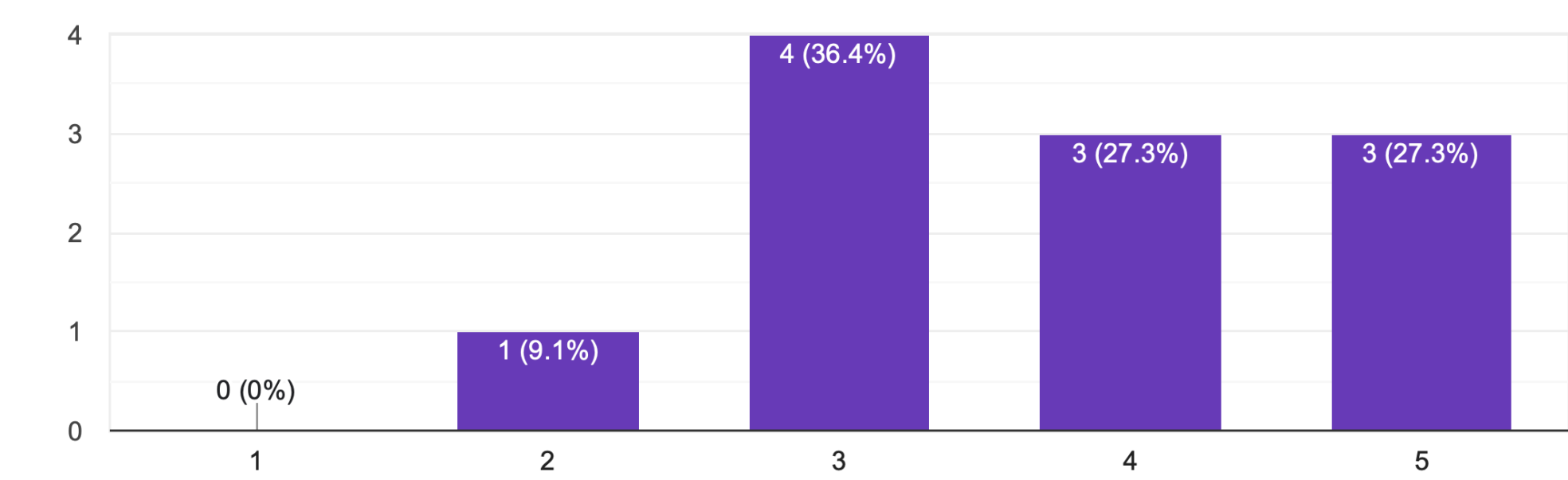


Mink, C. (2020) 6 musical theater audition tips you should know - backstageC, 6 Ways to Nail Your Next Musical Theater Audition. Available at: <https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/ways-nail-next-musical-theater-audition-4547/> (Accessed: 11 May 2023).



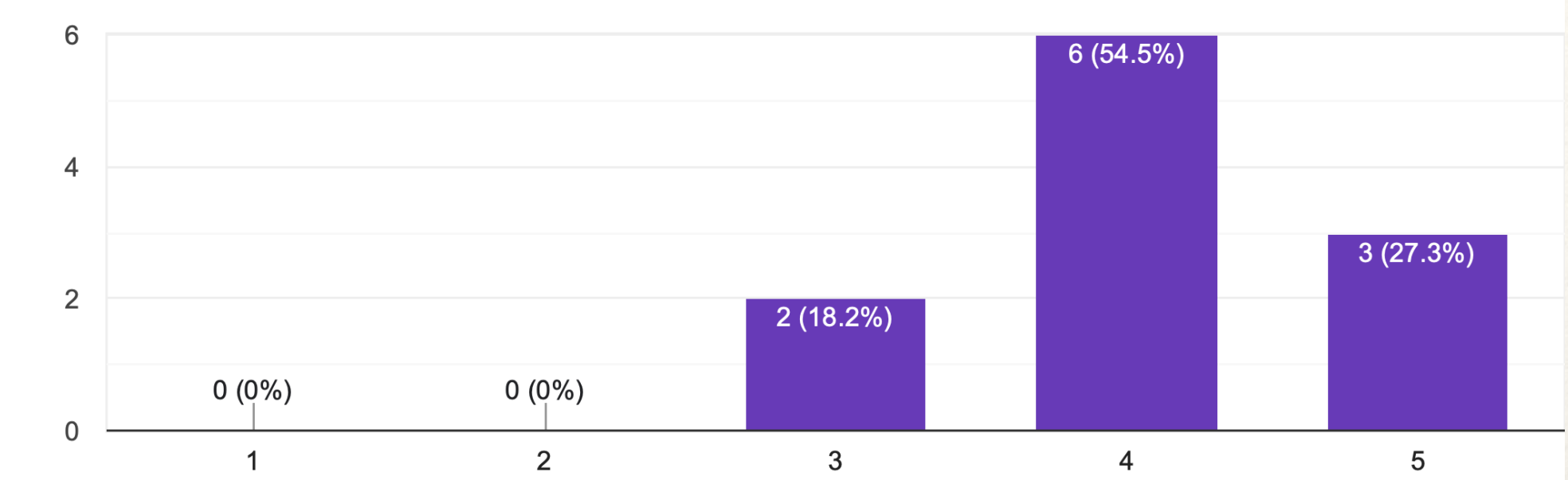
How important is "dynamic variety" to you when considering the employment of a vocalist in an audition situation?

11 responses



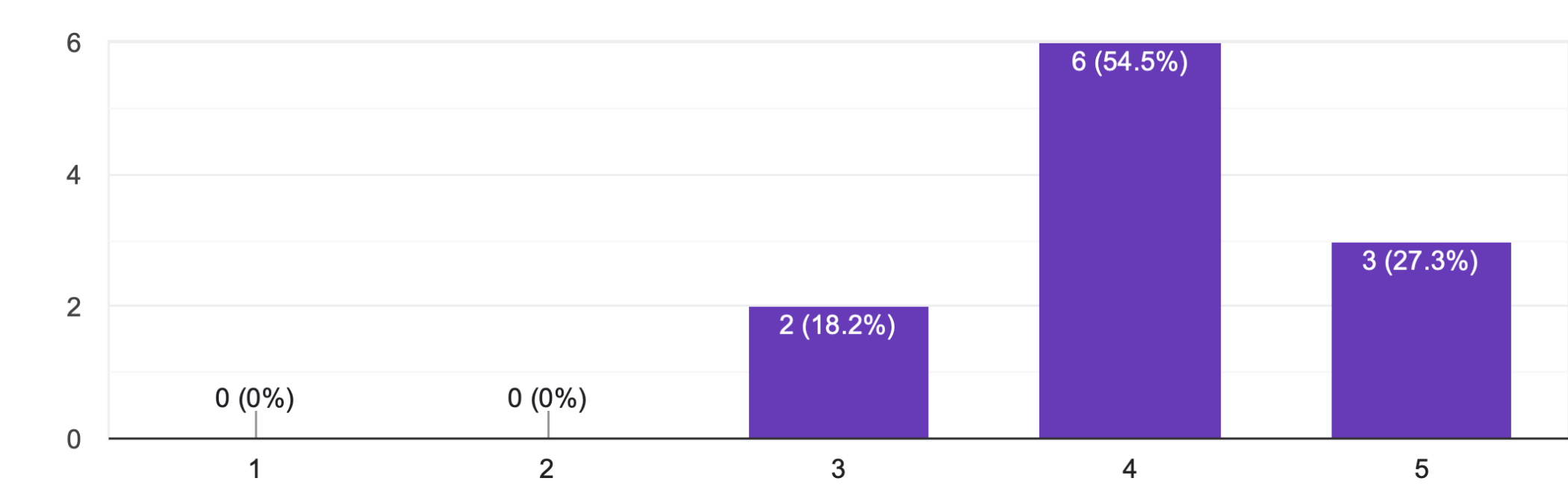
How important is "vocal resilience" to you when considering the employment of a vocalist in an audition situation?

11 responses

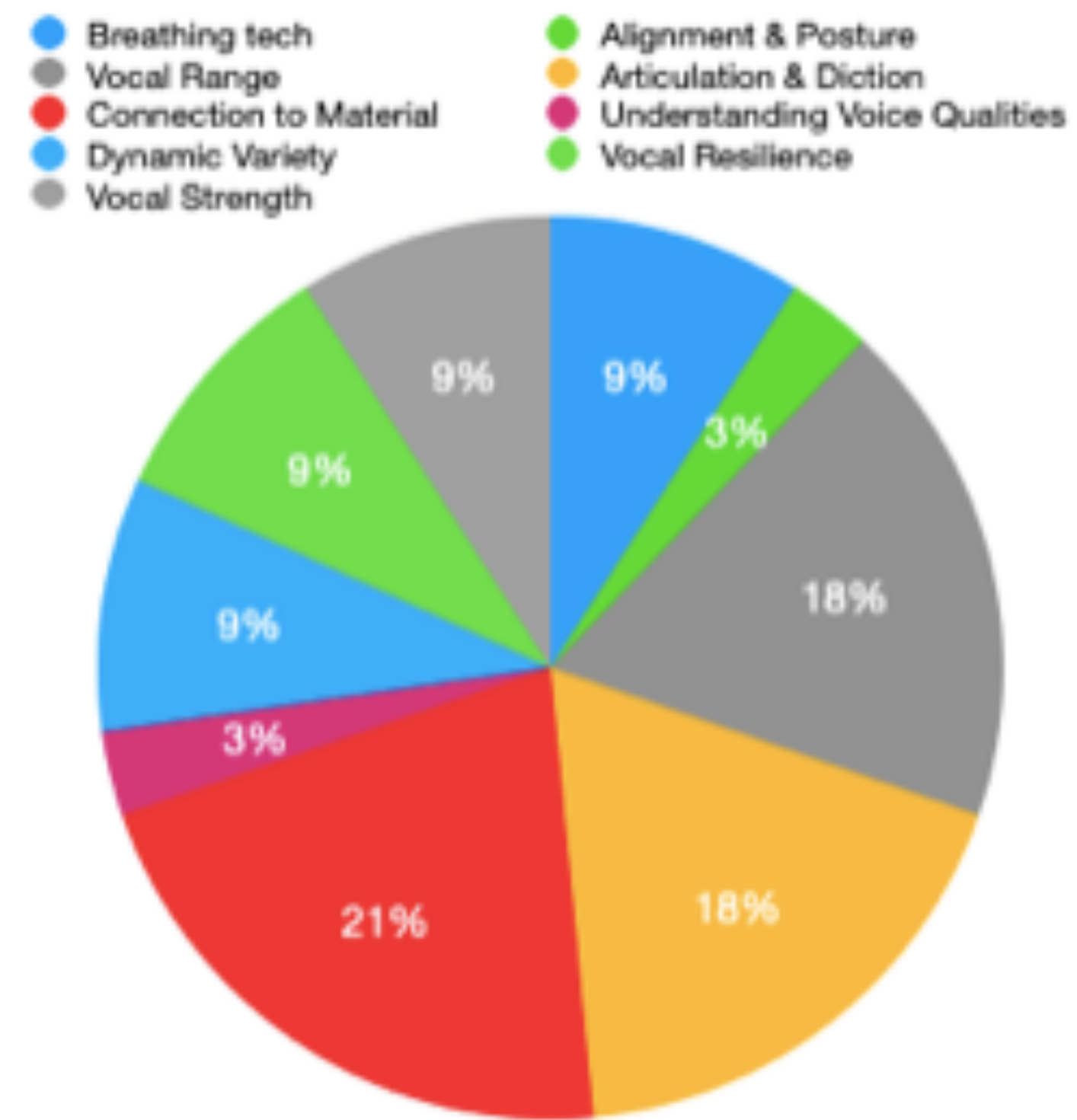


How important is "vocal strength" to you when considering the employment of a vocalist in an audition situation?

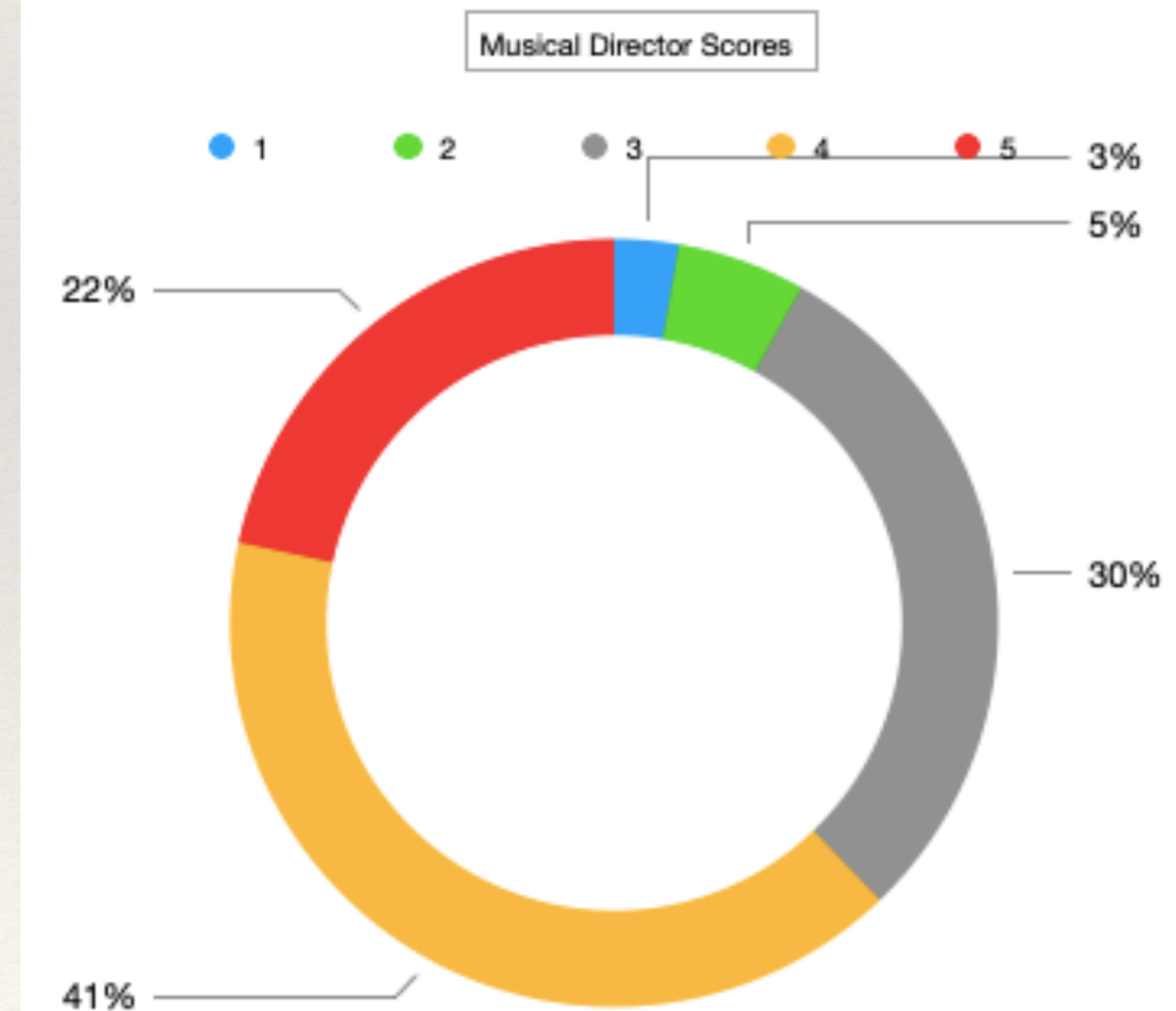
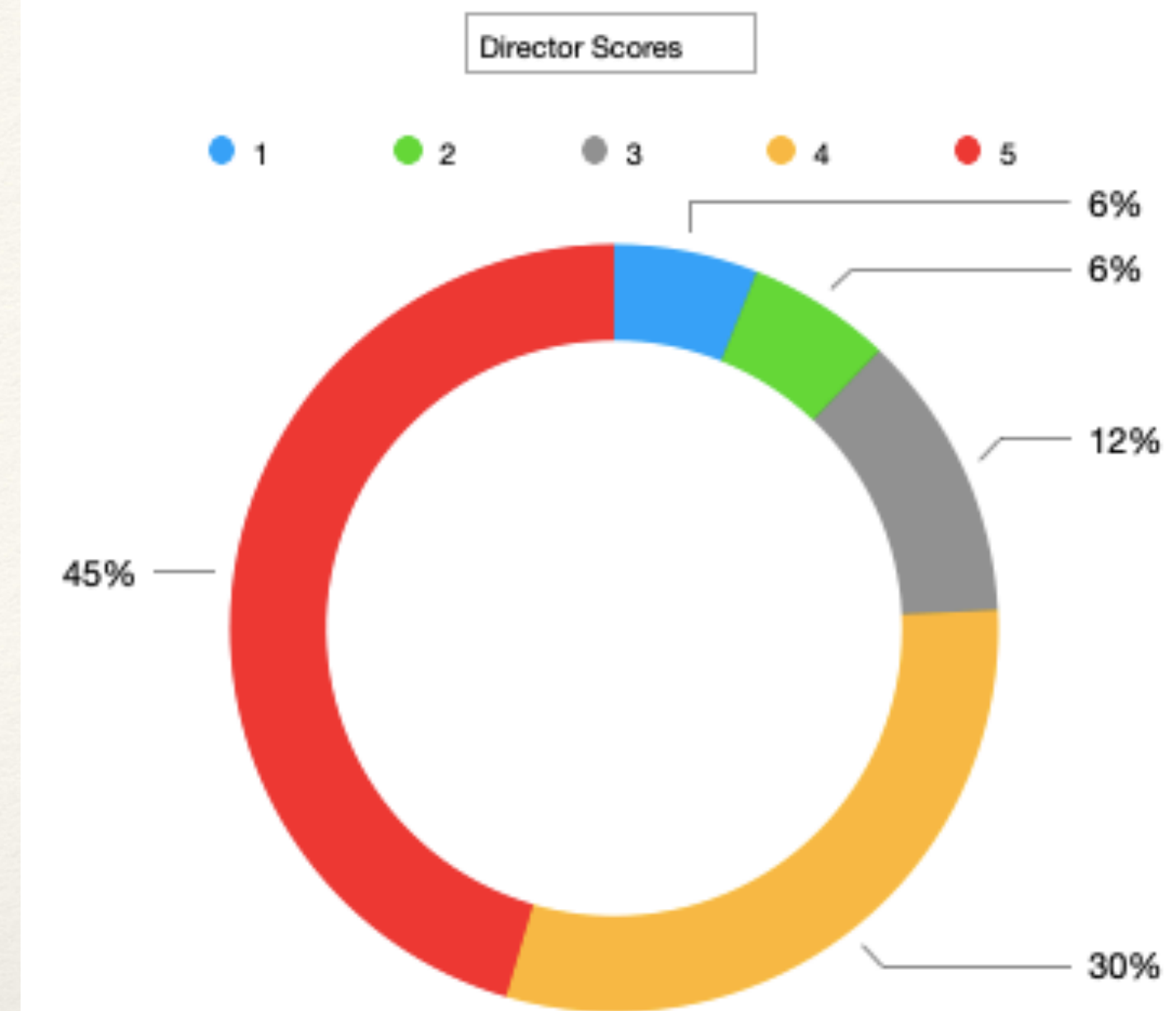
11 responses



Overall...



By profession:
It matters who is in the audition
room!



Limitations

The major limitation of this study is the sample size.

Fox, S. (2022) *How to determine survey sample size: A guide*, Customer Feedback Surveys [Start Free].
Available at: <https://survicate.com/blog/survey-sample-size/> (Accessed: 13 July 2023).

Live performance theater: Total employees US 2023 (2023) Statista. Available at: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1181778/number-of-live-performance-theater-industry-employees-us/> (Accessed: 11 July 2023).



To Conclude...

“in the long term, education must aim for active use of knowledge and skill” (Arbor, 1994)

Arbor, A. (1994) 'Do students understand understanding?', The Education Digest, 59(5).

