



Audition Tips

Many of you are unused to taking live auditions in recent years, due to Covid. Live auditions are a better way for us to judge everyone and are a necessary part of every musician's skill set. The following are some tips to help you prepare and some information about what to expect at the audition.

1. **Scales:** If scales are a part of your audition, prepare all scales at a tempo you can play cleanly with good intonation and tone quality. If scales are either 2 or 3 octaves, know that 3 octaves are preferred, but it would be better to play 2 octaves well than 3 octaves poorly. Practice scales in different orders. You will most likely not play all your scales at the audition.
2. **Solo or required pieces:** Prepare the solo to the best of your ability. Rhythm and pitch as well as musical expression and tone quality are what we listen for. You may not play all of your solo/s at the audition due to time constraints. Solos do not need to be memorized. For required solos, prepare all of the music. For solos of your choice, expect to play no more than 3 to 4 minutes of music.
3. **Excerpts:** Prepare the required excerpt/s as accurately as possible. Work with a metronome to ensure your tempos are steady.
4. **Sightreading:** Practice sightreading small excerpts of music. Look at the key and time signatures and tempo indication and think through the excerpt with pulse, rhythm and pitches in mind. "Hear" the music in your head as you look through it. You will have about 30 seconds to look at the excerpt before playing it at the audition.
5. Practice taking an audition by playing a required scale, your solo, the excerpts and doing some sightreading, so you get used to the pace of an actual audition.
6. Arrive 15 to 20 minutes early for your audition. You will be given a practice room. Warm up by playing your prepared rep slowly.
7. Remember that while everyone strives to play a perfect audition, perfection is not an achievable goal. Take a deep breath and remember the judges are eager for you to show them your best playing. All of the judges hearing you have been on the other side of the audition table many times. They look forward to hearing you play!