

MAKING AN AUDITION RECORDING - HELPFUL HINTS

What is the committee listening for?

(based on an article courtesy of the Alberta Band Association)

Tone - Is your sound rich, clear and characteristic of your instrument? Can you control the tone in all registers and at different dynamic levels?

Intonation - Are you able to play in tune when moving from one note to another and throughout the registers?

Rhythm - Are you able to hold notes and observe rests for the correct length? Do you hold a whole note for four beats? Are your eighth notes, sixteenth notes and triplets precise and even? Can you keep steady time?

Interpretation - How musically can you play? Do you follow tempo and phrase markings? Is your performance expressive and do you understand the style of the etude? Do you demonstrate a contrast in dynamics? Are your scales musical and not just technical exercises?

Technique - Do you demonstrate accuracy, agility and control by playing smoothly and evenly? Are you using alternative fingerings in difficult passages? Do you play the articulation markings correctly? Are you breathing at appropriate places in the music?

Tips for making a recording

1. Read the instructions carefully and follow all directions. Please note the audition deadline.
2. Start early! Give yourself several weeks to prepare your audition.
3. The scales are very important. They are the first impression you will make on your audition. Practice to achieve your top speed, but be sure the scales and arpeggios are even and accurate. Play them with the specified articulation and in the order listed.
4. Begin recording well in advance of the deadline. Give yourself time to try again if you're not satisfied with your previous attempt.
5. When recording do not say your name or anything else – simply start playing. If submitting a CD, put each scale or etude on a different track. If submitting your recording online, separate tracks must be joined prior to submitting.
6. Give yourself every advantage by using a high quality recorder. Record in a room which is quiet and has good acoustics. Experiment with microphone placement.
7. Be sure to listen to the entire final product before submitting your recording.
8. Good luck!

How to record your audition

Option 1: Record on an IPAD or IPOD using the voice memo app

- Record a few test tracks to find the optimal room placement for the device to achieve the best recording quality.
- Once you have recorded all the tracks that you want, download the tracks to your computer, or email them from your device to your computer using the share function.

Option 2: Record on a computer or laptop using a recording program such as Audacity. Download the latest free version at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/>

- Use an external microphone for optimal recording quality, or use the built-in mic on a laptop
- Instructions for Audacity are available on the program's help menu.

Option 3: Record using a zoom recorder or other recording equipment. Your school or private music teacher may have recording equipment available for use.

- Most handheld audio recorders allow you the option of saving your files as .mp3

How to convert a file to mp3

1. If your files were not recorded in a mp3 format create a folder on your computer that contains only the tracks you want to submit.
2. Go to <http://online-audio-converter.com>
3. Upload the files you wish to convert and click on the button to download the conversion.
4. Follow the instructions to convert all your files to mp3 format (the only acceptable format for submitting your honour band audition)

How to join files into a single file (required for online submission)

1. Go to <http://audio-joiner.com/> or <http://audiojoiner.com> , or any online audio-joiner of your choice. Some additional examples include <http://convertaudiofree.com> and <http://en.softonic.com>
2. Upload all your files to join them together (your honour band audition files must be all in ONE .mp3 file in order to submit your audition online).
Please ensure that Fade In/Fade Out and Crossfade are disabled.
3. Download your joined file and save it to the same folder on your computer that all of your other files are saved to, and label your audition FirstnameLastname_instrument.
4. Please keep your audition recording folder until the Honour Band has been selected.
5. Go to <http://www.mbband.org/?page=Honourconcertbands> to submit your audition.