ENSEMBLE AUDITION ADVICE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

1) SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARATION

• Listen to a recording of the piece/movement when possible. Many pieces are now available on iTunes, online or on a particular composers’ webpage.
• Pay close attention to detail on the excerpt, (tempo indication, dynamic, etc.).
• Ask other people to listen to you play the excerpts, as you prepare.
• Put yourself in a performance setting during your summer preparation.

2) WHAT TO DO AT THE AUDITION

• Arrive early (and warmed up), fill out the information form
• Leave your coat, case, etc. outside the audition room BEFORE COMING IN.
• Present a professional image (you only get one chance to make a first impression)
• Dress for the occasion; be comfortable.
• Have your instrument out and ready
• Introduce yourself
• Know correct pronunciations
• Communicate—well before the week of auditions— if you have a legitimate problem to Barbara Douglas in the Band office at bldouglas@wisc.edu (608-890-2456) or Barb Mahling in the Choral/Orchestra/Jazz office at mahling@wisc.edu (608-263-1891).

3) AUDITION EXECUTION

• Give yourself plenty of time to do everything (i.e. get up early, have a leisurely meal, arrive early to the audition, etc.)
• Avoid over-practicing, which may cause fatigue
• Warm up well
• At the site...warm up alone and don't listen to other players
• Play to your own standards - don't try to second-guess how the committee would like something performed
• Take some risks - communicate musically
• Maintain a positive appearance even if you do not play well
• Take written notes about the audition experience

It is important to keep in mind that the members of the auditioning committee want you to do your best and succeed!!!