

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON • MEAD WITTER SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ENSEMBLE AUDITION ADVICE

Suggestions for Preparation

- Listen to a recording of the piece or movement multiple times, with and without your part and/or the score. Many pieces are now available on iTunes, YouTube, on a composer's website, or other places online. Mills Music Library on campus has many recordings as well.
- Pay close attention to detail on the excerpt—tempo, dynamics, etc.
- Play the excerpt for other people before your audition. Ask them for feedback.

Day of Audition

- Give yourself plenty of time before your audition—wake up early, eat a meal, travel time, finding the right room, filling out forms, warming up, etc.
- Avoid fatigue—do not over practice, but do warm up well

The Audition Process

- Arrive early. Warm up. Fill out the audition form if you haven't already.
- Leave your coat, case, etc. outside the audition room.
- Have your instrument out and ready to play.
- A proctor will assist you in entering the audition space. If you are taking part in a blind audition (woodwinds and brass music majors for Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and Orchestra), *do not speak* once you enter the audition space. You will be behind a screen, not visible to the judges. Whisper any questions or concerns to the proctor before entering the audition space.

Execution

- Take the audition seriously, but stay calm and have fun.
- Communicate musically—play idiomatically, expressively, and with musicality.
- Play to your own high standards. Don't second-guess yourself or assume how the judges may want something performed. Remember: the judges want you to do your best and succeed.

If you have a legitimate issue with your scheduled ensemble audition, please contact a performing organizations coordinator well in advance: performingorgs@music.wisc.edu or (608) 263-1770