Instrumental Music Audition Procedures

Prospective West Virginia Governor’s School for the Arts instrumental music students should have a two-three minute piece or excerpt prepared. A student may perform on two different instruments—2-3 minutes each. Pieces should showcase technique as well as the ability to fluently speak the language of music. Memorized solos are preferred but not mandatory.

Part of the video audition will include playing the following major scales: do B-flat, E-Flat, G and D major. Two octaves ascending and descending. The scales are not included in the time allotment.

Each student should prepare a piece that reflects the best example of his/her performance without being excessively simple.

All styles are welcome and students of all instruments will be considered. The West Virginia Governor’s School for the Arts is not enrolling a performance ensemble and does not have set instrumentation requirements. The purpose of the institution is to collect the most talented young artists in the state and give them the opportunity to advance their skills through a rigorous summer experience.

You will email the teacher a scanned copy of the score for your pieces so that he can read and listen at the same time. The score will be destroyed after the audition process ends.

During the audition, following categories will be given scores of 1-10: basic tone quality, major scales, phrasing/dynamics, minor scales, overall musicality, chord building, stylistic range and the ability to change/take directions.

Other items, such as sight reading, can take place during the SKYPE interview.

How to Select Your Audition Music

- Choose one piece that demonstrates both technically and musically the best aspects of your playing;
- Choose a piece that you know well, have performed before, and enjoy playing. Avoid choosing a piece that is too difficult or too easy for you to play—difficult literature performed poorly is not impressive, and easy literature, although performed well, may not provide enough information for the judges. Seek advice from your private teacher or ensemble director.
- Be able to play from memory two-octave major scales up to and including three sharps or flats both ascending and descending. If range is an issue for brass players, you will...
be allowed to play a 1½ octave scale. Pianists should play all requested scales two octaves hands together.

**How to Prepare for Your Audition:**

- Practice sight-reading. In the event that the judge wants you to sight read, you will have 30 seconds to look over the sight-reading music before you are asked to play it;
- Wear dress clothing (e.g., dress slacks, shirt, and shoes for men—ties, jackets and suits are not necessary; dresses, skirts, or pants for women), but dress comfortably. Do not overdress or underdress in anything that could cause a distraction from your audition;
- Come early to your audition! Allow plenty of time for yourself. Warm up, tune your instrument, and collect your thoughts;
- Practice in the clothes and shoes you plan to wear, especially if they are new; you should practice performing your audition many times for your family, peers, teachers, or anyone who will listen to you;
- Relax and enjoy yourself! The judges want you to do well. They have all been through many auditions themselves and have experienced being nervous before.

When performing, concentrate on your music rather than what you imagine the judges are thinking.