

Audition Advice

What to do:

- Present a professional image (you only get one chance to make a first impression)
- Take control of the situation (plan what you are going to play and do)
- Dress for the occasion
- Be on time and warmed up
- Make sure that your instrument and reeds are working properly
- Leave your case(s) outside the room
- Have your instrument out and ready
- Introduce yourself
- Get the committee's attention
- Speak clearly and look people in the eye
- Know correct pronunciations
- Listen to recordings of the excerpts so that you will be familiar with tempos
- Choose music that is appropriate (get advice)
- Don't change repertoire less than one week prior to the audition
- Prepare well in advance
- Demonstrate your ability and facility
- Dazzle with your blazing technique
- Show the depth of your musical soul
- Communicate if you have a legitimate problem (well before the audition)

What not to do:

- Do not make excuses or apologies (for anything)
- Do not draw attention to problems (the panel may not notice)

What not to say:

- I haven't warmed up
- I haven't had a chance to practice
- I didn't know...
- Nobody told me...
- I just got this horn
- What should I play?
- I don't have my instrument (sticks, etc.)
- I didn't bring any music with me

You may find the following guidelines helpful

(as presented by Eric Hoover, President of the National Flute Association)

- Dress well, shine your shoes, pay attention to personal grooming (visual impressions are important)
- Demonstrate that you are a good colleague as well as a good musician
- Show confidence without being cocky
- 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 and practice audition material under tempo
- At the site...warm up alone and don't listen to other players
- Perform your selections in an order that maintains the committee's attention
- 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

**REMEMBER, THE MEMBERS OF THE AUDITIONING COMMITTEE WANT NOTHING MORE
THAN FOR YOU TO DO YOUR BEST AND SUCCEED!**