

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 the eye

Know correct pronunciations

Listen to a recording of the excerpts so that you will be familiar with traditional 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)

Initial Impressions

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

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 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!!!**