

# COLLEGE MUSIC AUDITION ADVICE

## WHAT TO PERFORM:

- Contact the School of Music for specific information regarding your instrument or voice.
- Choose music that is appropriate. Get advice. Your band director or private teacher will help.
- Perform two selections of a contrasting nature. It may also be two sections of the same piece. Make sure one selection highlights your musicianship and the other your technique.
- Don't change your mind about your selections right before the audition!

## WHAT TO DO:

- Present a professional image. You only get one chance to make a first impression!
- Plan what you will say, do, and perform.
- Show confidence.
- Dress for the occasion. Men: wear coat and a tie. Women: wear professional outfits (e.g., knee-length dresses or slacks and a nice blouse, sweater or jacket.)
- Be on time. Give yourself plenty of time to find your way around, relax, and warm up.
- Make sure your equipment is working properly and that you have everything you need.
- Always bring extra copies of your music. Make sure they are clean and unfolded.
- Maintain a positive appearance even if the audition does not go well.

## WHAT TO SAY:

- Introduce yourself.
- Look people in the eyes.
- Tell the committee what you will perform. Correctly pronounce both the title and the composer.
- Ask questions before you play only if the answer will directly affect your performance; if not, wait until after you've performed.
- Thank the committee when you are finished.

## WHAT NOT TO PERFORM:

- Old band, choir, or orchestra music.
- Warm-up or method exercises.

## WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Do not wear shorts, jeans, ball caps, sandals, etc.
- Do not make excuses or apologies for anything!
- Do not draw attention to performance problems. (The committee may not notice!)

## WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- "I have not warmed up."
- "I haven't had a chance to practice." (*Then why are you here?*)
- "I didn't know" or "Nobody told me . . ." (*It's your job to find out.*)
- "I just got this instrument."
- "What should I play?"
- "Do you have an instrument I can use?"
- "I didn't bring my music."