

FOR THE AUDITION:

Auditions are private.

Your parents are welcome to wait for you in the warm up room.

No accompanists are allowed.

Copies of your solo are not necessary for the August auditions.

STRINGS, WOODWINDS and BRASS:

- 1. Prepare a 2-3 minute solo (or portion of a longer piece), orchestral excerpt or etude of your choice. (As a general rule, music pieces from your school orchestra are not recommended but it would be better than not auditioning at all.) It does NOT need to be memorized. Your selection should demonstrate your technical ability without being too difficult or too easy. It should be something you can play comfortably well.*
- 2. You will be expected to play (major) scales, by memory, in as many octaves and keys as is appropriate for your skill level.*
- 3. Sight-reading will be provided by the adjudicator.*

PERCUSSION:

- 1. Snare drum, tympani and xylophone will be provided. You should be prepared to show your competency on all of them. You are expected to bring your own sticks and mallets for the various instruments.*
- 2. All percussionists should prepare a 2-4 minute concerto solo, orchestra excerpt or etude of your choice. This selection should demonstrate your overall musicianship.*
- 3. On tympani and snare drum you need to demonstrate the ability to play a roll pp-ff.*
- 4. Sight-reading will be provided by adjudicator.*

HARP:

- 1. Prepare a solo, concerto, orchestral excerpt or etude of your choice. It should be 2-4 minutes in length. Your selection should demonstrate your technical ability and lyricism. It may be chosen from two separate pieces.*
- 2. Sight-reading will be provided by adjudicator.*

General Audition Tips

Be Prepared. This is the single most important thing you can do.

Plan Ahead. Make sure you have left yourself an adequate amount of time to prepare your solo. Don't forget about scales.

Know the "Big Picture". If you can, listen to a recording of your solo piece.

Rehearse Your Audition. You may want to play your solo and scales for teachers, friends and parents. It will help you get used to playing in front of people. The people you play for do not need to be musicians themselves.

Get a Good Night Sleep. Try to do everything the day before as you normally do.

Eat Properly. Don't eat foods that are too spicy and have the potential to upset your stomach.

Hydrate. Drink plenty of water the night before and the day of your audition.

Think Positively. When you think about the audition, visualize yourself going into the room with confidence and hear yourself (in your mind) playing the best you can.

Wear Comfortable Clothes. Although shorts and flip-flops may not be appropriate, you do not necessarily need to wear a tie or a dress. You should feel positive about yourself in what you wear. It should be comfortable and neat.

Leave Plenty of Time. Make sure you have directions to the audition location. Allow adequate travel time so you aren't rushed to get there. Remove this potential tension-maker.

Warm Up. If possible, warm up before you leave home. There is also a warm up/tune up room at the audition site. Give yourself at least 20 minutes prior to your scheduled audition time to unpack, tune and warm up. Be careful not to overdo it and tire yourself out.

Woodwinds. Be sure to evaluate the condition of the reed you're currently using and have a good spare with you.

Before You Sight-read. Do two things: check the key signature and the time signature. Don't rush into it. Give yourself a moment to look over the music.

After the Audition. Don't freak out. People like to beat themselves up after an audition. Be realistic with yourself about how you played. Look at the overall impression you left.

Have Fun! MYS is an enjoyable experience which lasts years. Most players remain in MYS for many years, developing lasting friendships and wonderful memories.