

Northern Virginia Youth Winds Video Audition Instructions and Tips

Preliminary Steps

- 1. Audition Material** - make your selections for what you will be recording.
 - a. Major Scales** - choose 4 Major scales for your instrument that demonstrate your ability to play in a variety of sharp and flat keys. Play as many octaves as able and use legato tongue. Percussionists play two octaves if possible.
 - b. Chromatic Scale** - play your full range, slurring up and staccato tongue down. Percussionists play from lowest C to highest C.
 - c. Prepared Selection/s** - select about two minutes of music from an etude or solo. You may wish to play more than one selection to demonstrate both technical and lyrical skills. Percussionists should prepare both a mallet and snare selection.
- 2. Recording format, file size, and web hosting** - before recording your audition, test that your device will record in a file format that is supported by your hosting site (YouTube, DropBox, Google Drive, etc.) that you plan to use. Note that some hosting sites have file size limitations. You will need to choose a hosting site that will allow you to create a web link for sharing your video.
- 3. Sound/Video Test** - Your recording location, device, and distance from device should be considered when making your video. Have your face and instrument in clear view while you play, but at least a few feet from the camera. Before recording the audition, test out a few options and compare how they sound - can your tone and articulation quality be heard easily?

Make Your Recording

- 1. Personal Introduction** - at the beginning, say your name and a few things about yourself (school you attend, how long you've been playing your instrument, something else you do, etc.). Dress neatly.
- 2. Content Introduction** - say what you are playing before you play it, including the name of each scale you play.
- 3. Video Editing** - Do not alter the audio with extra reverb or similar - this only makes it more difficult to hear what you sound like. You may wish to record prepared selections and scales in separate takes - this is fine, but please record all scales in the same "take" and play your prepared selection all the way through without editing separate videos together. A video that is edited too much to determine your ability will not be accepted.
- 4. Recording suggestion** - it will be tempting to stop every time you make a mistake and start a new recording. This becomes frustrating! Instead, make several recordings without stopping, even if you make mistakes. Then review to decide which one is best.

Submit Your Video Audition

- 1. Upload** - use a platform like YouTube, DropBox, Vimeo, or Google Drive. Test that your video can be viewed by someone other than the account holder.
- 2. Submit** - complete [this Google Form](#) to submit your audition video link.

If help is needed or you have questions, email info-nvyw@fairfaxband.org