



HELP YOUR STUDENTS HAVE A SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE AUDITION

Daniel Schmidt

Director of Bands, Northern Arizona University

Email - daniel.schmidt@nau.edu

Larry Clark

Vice President, Editor-in-Chief, Carl Fischer Music

Email - larryc@carlfischer.com

I. How to Choose the Right College

- A. The Product
 - 1. What are your educational goals?
 - 2. Does it match the school's mission and strengths?
 - 3. Other important considerations.
- B. The Retail Value
 - 1. Is the cost worth it?
 - 2. Are scholarships an option?
 - 3. You may get what you pay for.
- C. Other Factors of Lesser Importance

II. How to Audition

- A. It is like a job interview.
- B. Picking the right music to play – it must be balanced.
 - 1. Do your homework – visit the school's website so you know about its requirements.
 - 2. Prepare everything! Ex: solos, etudes, scales, orchestral excerpts.
 - 3. Showcase contrasting styles.
- C. Appearance matters!
- D. Arrive early and get acclimated.
- E. Know what to expect before the audition. Check out the room beforehand if you can.
- F. Know what to bring.
- G. Be sure to ask questions. You are interviewing the school, too!
- H. Do you need a pianist?
- I. Try to take a lesson before the audition. If not before, then during your visit.
- J. Preparation, preparation, preparation!
 - 1. Solos
 - 2. Etudes
 - 3. Scales
 - 4. Orchestral Excerpts

III. There is no such thing as over-preparation

- A. Do mock auditions with teachers, friends and family.
- B. Play your audition material in a variety of different settings.
- C. Having more music ready than is needed is better than not having enough.

IV. Why is it important to present oneself in the best way possible at an audition?

- A. Why this subject is important to me?
- B. It's about money!
- C. You will not only have a better chance at being accepted, but also at getting a scholarship.

V. Other things to consider

- A. Piano placement exam.
- B. Theory placement exam.

VI. Why it's important for band directors to help their students in this area



