

Tips and Tricks for Recording An Audition Video

How You Look

We want to see a single camera angle that clearly captures your fingers, your arms, your mouth, your diaphragm – whatever you use to make music. In most cases, framing the video so we can see you from the waist up is just fine.

Choose a neutral background to stand in front of and be especially mindful of lighting. For example, it is best to stand in front of a blank wall, not in front of a window.

Perform a test recording to make sure you like how you look in the frame.

How You Sound

You may choose to record your audition with a video camera and external microphone, or you may choose record with your phone. Whatever set-up records the best version of your playing is just fine.

The placement of your recording device depends on the instrument you play (or if you are a singer), your dynamic range, and how reverberant the room is. A good rule of thumb is to begin by placing your recording device 2-4 feet in front of your bell, your mouth, your bow, etc.

Perform test recordings and listen back to make sure you like how you sound. Your test recordings should include a loud part of your music and a soft part of your music. Adjust the positioning of your device and notice how the sound changes. Make sure you sound clear, distortion-free, and well-balanced at all dynamic levels.

Once you find a set-up that looks and sounds good, make notes or draw a diagram. You will be glad to have this information as a starting point the next time you need to record yourself.

Ready, Set, Play!

Before you start playing, reduce distractions as much as possible. Is your phone off? Is the dog barking? Are other people in the building making noise? Treat your recording like a performance.

At the start of your video, say your name, what degree you are applying for, and what pieces you will be playing:

*"Hello, my name is Annie Corrigan.
I am applying to the Bachelor of Music program on oboe.
I will be playing movements one and two from Handel's Concerto for Oboe in G Minor
and William Grant Still's Incantation and Dance."*

It is required that individual pieces be recorded in a single, unedited take. We want to hear and see a continuous performance of each work. You may pause your video between pieces if you need, but you should not edit your video in any way.

Remember, have fun recording your audition!

Submit Your Video

Once you are satisfied with your video, upload it to YouTube. Set the privacy settings to "unlisted." Label your video *MUN Audition, Your Name, Date*. Email the link to your YouTube video to musicauditions@mun.ca.