

TIPS FOR MAKING AN AUDITION VIDEO

Note, these are suggestions for creating a quality audition video. You still need to consult with the departmental audition webpage for all audition and recording requirements.

<https://www.gcsu.edu/artsandsciences/music/auditions-department-of-music>

EQUIPMENT

- You can use your phone, tablet, computer, or a camcorder.
- Your phone or tablet should be set horizontally – put it in Airplane mode or Do Not Disturb mode to avoid interruptions – and tap the screen to focus.
- Use a tripod or stand. This cannot be a “selfie” even with a stick.
- Be sure the device is at the right distance from you to frame the shot. Do not use the zoom function as this makes the image grainy or fuzzy.
- If you are using pre-recorded accompaniment, have someone else start and stop your music.

BACKGROUND

- Consider using a big venue, including a recital hall, church, classroom, or living room.
- Stay away from a lot of clutter, use a simple background. Artwork on the wall is ok. Posters in your bedroom are not. No food, laundry, music, instrument cases, or other distractions should be in the shot.
- Be sure the light is good. Try to minimize shadows on your face. If possible, please use a ring light.
- Be sure the room is quiet. No background noise (television noise, other people practicing, dancing, cooking, etc.)

RECORDING

- Look into the camera at your eye level.
- Please introduce yourself and state the titles that you will perform. ***Everything should be in one video, including introduction and performance without any editing.***
- Have someone else start and stop the recording.
- Instrumentalists, you do NOT need to look at the camera as you play, only as you introduce yourself and your selections.
- Pianists be sure we can see your hands and your torso.
- Vocalists be sure we can see the ¾ of your body and the camera is at your eye level.
- Be sure you are in the center of the frame.
- If there is an accompanist, we need to see them on the left side of the screen as well. We need to see ¾ of your body, not just a face and not the whole body. That would be too close or too far away.
- Music should be memorized unless explicitly stated in the audition requirements. If you are in doubt, contact the school for clarification or approval.
- When using music, be sure the music stand does not block your face and/or instrument.

DRESS ATTIRE

- Nice business casual, or the same thing you would wear to a performance. Not an evening gown or tuxedo, no flip flops, no boots, and no jeans.
- Regular make up and jewelry.

CHECK YOUR WORK

- Before submitting, make sure there is video AND audio.
- Make sure it is right side up.
- Make sure the balance is correct. We need to hear you and the pianist.
- Watch and listen all the way through to make sure there are no skips, pauses, or glitches in your audition.