

BANDMASTER STUDIO

Clarinet / Sax / Flute

Primary Goals for Auditions

Being prepared is the single biggest factor in achieving successful results. Understand in advance what will be required and expected of you! Following is a list of common areas on which to focus.

Scales:

Strive for:

- A - Correct notes
- B - Smooth and even, don't guess use your metronome. Practice in groups of either 3 or 4
- C - For slower practice, change time signature from 4/4 to 8/8, 3/4 to 6/8, etc. as necessary always sub-divided or your scales will never be smooth or fast
- D - Gradually increase tempos
- E - Practice tonguing and slurring
- F - Memorize
- G - Listen!

Music Excerpts:

Strive for:

- A - Correct notes and rhythms at slow tempo. Diagram as necessary. Increase tempos gradually
- B - Make your lines *musical*. Use vibrato when/if appropriate. Always try to be impressive with what you do
- C - Pay close attention to what the music is asking you to do (phrasings, dynamics, articulations...)
- D - Listen!

Sight Reading:

Get some old material you haven't played in a long time, or something new—along with your metronome Don't overwhelm yourself. Start on the easier side and gradually increase difficulty

Strive for:

- A - Improved counting. This is probably the #1 aspect to being a good reader
- B - Look for patterns (rhythmic, melodic, dynamic...) in the music
- C - Observe all repeats, DC's, DS's etc.
- D - Record yourself if at all possible for playback and analysis

Personal:

Be sure to:

- A - Be on time. As the old saying goes, "...if you're on time, you're *late*..."
- B - Have all your "stuff". Extra reeds, mouthpiece cap, all music, maybe even a water bottle
- C - Warm up ahead of time. Incorporate long tones, and slow review of material, but do not wear yourself out. At this point, you either know what you're doing or you don't. This is the time to listen to your tone as you make final reed selections.
- D - Mentally focus. Who cares who's listening, you're playing for an audience of "one".

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