

College/Auditions

Step One: Decide on a major

- Some options include Music Performance, Music Education, Music Therapy, Arts Management, Music Production and Recording Technology, and Composition.
- To help figure out what major you might be interested in, it is often helpful to write down specific reasons you like performing and listening to music.
 - Use that as a starting point.
- By time you apply and audition, you should have this pretty well figured out
 - Music school is not easy, which means the faculty are often wary of people who are not still noncommittal.

Step Two (Part A): Find the right teacher

- Decide what sort of things you would like from a teacher
 - Enthusiasm, energy level, ability to inspire, teaching methods, philosophy, etc.
- Ask for recommendations from musicians you know and respect
- But also, do your own research
 - Just because one thing worked for one person does not guarantee it will work for you.
- **Take a lesson**
 - Lets you get to know the teacher
 - Lets the teacher get to know you
 - If you end up wanting to attend that teacher's school, having a lesson with the teacher some time before the audition day may increase your chances (if you play well and show an enthusiasm/dedication that meshes with the teacher's expectations and personality).
 - Some teachers charge but many will provide a first free lesson.

Step Two (Part B): Find the right school

- Decide what sort of things you would like from a school.
 - Community, size, location, programs, etc.
- Again, ask for recommendations from trusted musicians.
- And again, do your own research as well
- **Visit the campus**
 - You have no way of knowing if you like a school until you visit
- *No matter how good everything else is (including the money), DO NOT go to a college where you do not like/respect the applied teacher for your instrument.*
 - This will make your life bad.

For more tips on choosing a teacher and a college, check out the helpful pages at www.ryanromine.net

Step Three: Apply

- Choose a few schools. Do not put all of your eggs in one basket.
 - Perhaps two schools you really, really like, one reach school, and one safety school.
- Do not let an application fee get in your way. Your dreams are worth the fee.
- Also, do not let the price of a school get in your way at this stage. Since it is early on in the process, you probably have no idea exactly what sort of financial aid package the school can offer. And you will not find out unless you continue on.
- For many schools, much of your application process will be online.
 - It may be difficult to wade through all of this information at first, but keep with it. Your college dreams are worth the work.
- If you are required to submit a writing sample, be mature, honest, and as specific as possible. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.
 - Many colleges have easy access to technology that detects plagiarism.
 - Telling a specific story about why you love music is way more powerful than just saying, "I love music!"
- Make sure your test scores (SAT, ACT, etc.) are high enough to meet the school's requirements. If they are not, consider taking the test again.
- Some schools require you to apply to *both* the college and the conservatory/school of music. Read your paperwork carefully.

Step Four: Set up an audition date/time

- Keep your current school schedule in mind.
 - Do not choose a date that will leave you frustrated and/or unprepared

Step Five: Keep Practicing

- Check out the audition requirements for your instrument
- Work with your private lessons teacher/ensemble director to plan the best pieces to prepare.
 - When you go to take your lesson with your potential new teacher [see Step Two (Part A)], ask them then what they would recommend you prepare for your audition.
- If there is a set of music you can recycle between numerous schools, do that.
 - You will be much better prepared if you are not constantly having to learn new pieces.
- Practice your music in different orders, but also decide on a specific order you would like to use if given the choice.
- If you have never sung before, this is a good time to start.
 - Teachers will often have you sing scales or single notes with a piano to see if you can match pitch.

Step Six: FAFSA Time

- FAFSA=Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- With the help of your parents (you'll need some of their tax information), fill out the FAFSA.
- This form helps schools determine how much need-based financial aid you qualify for.

- On the form there is a section where you say to which schools you want them to send your information.
- If you add a school later, you can request that your FAFSA information be forwarded to that new school.

Step Seven: Get to the Audition

- If there is a prescreening recorded round, do your best to create a high-quality product.
 - Practice hard
 - Choose a good space and good equipment for your recording.
 - Have a friend or mentor help you record and then help you listen to your product before you send it off.
- If you need to purchase airplane or train tickets, do so in a reasonable timeframe.
 - If you wait until the last minute, you risk paying much higher last-minute prices.
- If you need to stay overnight, do your research and choose a hotel that will be comfortable and easy to get to.
 - If you stay with friends or family, make sure they know you are in town for **business**. Your job is not to socialize, babysit, or run errands. Your job is to get into college.
 - If you are on any type of medication (especially for acid reflux, diabetes, asthma, anxiety, or ADHD) do not forget to bring it. Auditions can be stressful and you want to be prepared.
- Arrive on your audition day with plenty of time to register and warm up.
- Consider bringing a snack.
 - It can be a long day.
- Wear nice but sensible clothing. Tuxes and ball gowns are not necessary.
 - Ladies, if you are going to wear heels, practice in your heels.
- Warm up calmly and sensibly
 - Focus on creating a good, even sound
 - Go over the problem areas in your music slowly and deliberately.
 - Consider bringing a folding music stand in case your warm up room does not have a stand.
- Sometimes there will be interviews and/or diagnostic tests before or after you play.
 - They are often *designed* to be difficult.
 - This gives the school a way of seeing what other technical and social skills you possess.
 - There is very often a written theory/aural skills diagnostic
 - Music therapy and education programs often do interviews to look for personability and ability to empathize.

Step Eight: PLAY THE AUDITION

- When you enter the audition room, smile and say hello.

- If provided the opportunity, shake everyone's hand while looking them in the eye and saying hello.
- DO NOT tell the audition committee how scared or nervous you are (unless they ask).
 - Understand that we desperately *want* you to play well.
- Have a plan for the order in which you would like to play your pieces. Sometimes you will be given a choice.
- "Tooting" a few notes before you begin is usually just fine.
- No matter the actual size of the audition room, play like you are in a concert hall.
 - No wimpy sounds.
- Oboists, have a plan for if you get water in your tone holes. Bring your feather, swab, etc.
- If something does not go well while you are playing, DO NOT roll your eyes or pout.
- Do not be scared or offended if the committee asks you to stop before you get to the end of your piece.
 - This is normal.
- Do not be scared or offended if the committee asks you to play something again.
 - This is also normal.
- Do not bow...unless people are clapping.
- DO NOT CRY
 - This makes everyone uncomfortable.
- DO NOT make negative comments about the school, facilities, peers, or teachers
 - You never know who people know.
- If the committee asks you if you have any questions...
 - DO NOT ask about money. This is not the time.
 - DO NOT ask how you did. Like crying, this makes people uncomfortable.
 - DO NOT ask about your competition (how many, names, etc.). This is tacky.
 - A Good Question: "About how long do you think it will be before I hear back from the school?"
- If given the opportunity, shake everyone's hand and thank them for their time.

Step Nine: Follow Up

- When you return home, it is a nice gesture to send an email to the teacher and thank them again for their time.
- This is still NOT the time to ask about money or whether you got in.
 - Wait for your letters to come in the mail and then go from there.
 - If you do not get in, drop it. There is nothing to be gained from fighting or begging.

For further information on auditions and such, check out www.ryanromine.net.

For further information on auditions at Shenandoah, check out <http://www.su.edu/admission>

Great Pieces for Undergraduate College Auditions

Most college auditions include solo repertoire, etudes, and scales (minor, major, chromatic).

- Most undergraduate auditions do not require a pianist
- Many masters and doctorate auditions require a pianist
- Most doctorate auditions require a short lecture/presentation
- *If you are auditioning for an undergraduate performance degree, the committee will be looking for a slightly higher degree of difficulty and refinement.*

Oboe Solos

Bach: Unaccompanied Sonata

Handel: Oboe Sonatas

Mozart: Oboe Concerto

Mozart: Oboe Quartet

Vivaldi: Sonatas and Concerti

Oboe Etudes

Andraud: Vade-Mecum of the Oboist

Barrett: Oboe Method

Brod: Studies for Oboe

Ferling: 48 Studies

Bassoon Solos

Bourdeau: Premier Solo

Cioffari: Sonatina

Fasch: Sonata

Devienne: The Concerto (some old publications attribute it to Mozart) or one of the six Sonatas

Galliard: One of the six Sonatas

Hindemith: Sonata

Mozart: Concerto, K.191

Phillips: Concertpiece

Senaille: Allegro Spiritoso

Telemann: Sonata in F-minor

Weber: Concerto

Bassoon Etudes

Ferling: 48 Famous Studies (arr. Thornton)

Milde: 25 Studies in Scales and Chords

Milde: 50 Concert Studies

Weissenborn: 50 Advanced Studies