

# **Audition Advice**

## **What to do:**

Present a professional image (you get only one chance to make a first impression)  
Take control of the situation (plan what you are going to play and do)  
Dress for the occasion  
Be on time and warmed up  
Make sure your instrument and reeds are working properly  
Leave your case outside the room  
Have your instrument out and ready  
Introduce yourself to the committee members, shake hands if possible  
Speak clearly; look people in the eye  
Know the correct pronunciations of composers, titles, etc.  
Choose music that is appropriate/get advice  
Don't change repertoire less than a week before the audition  
Prepare well in advance of the audition date  
Communicate if you have a legitimate problem (LONG BEFORE the audition)

## **What not to do:**

Do not wear shorts, jeans, hats, t-shirts, etc.  
Do not make excuses or apologies (for anything)  
Don't draw attention to problems (the committee may not notice)

## **What not to say:**

"I haven't warmed up"  
"I haven't had a chance to practice very much"  
"I didn't know..."  
"I just got this horn/music"  
"I don't have my instrument, sticks, etc."  
"I didn't bring any music to play for my audition"  
"I just found out about this audition date"  
"Nobody told me"

## **At the Audition:**

Give yourself plenty of time to do everything (get up early, arrive early to the audition, etc.)  
Avoid over-practicing/warming up too much - it may cause nerve problems (and fatigue)  
Warm up alone and don't listen to other players  
Perform your selections in an order that maintains the committee's attention  
Play to your own standards: Don't try to second guess how the committee would like something performed  
Take some risks. . . communicate musically; show them the depth of your musical soul  
Demonstrate your ability and facility; dazzle them with your blazing technique  
Maintain a positive appearance even if you do not play well

**Remember: the members of the Audition Committee want nothing more than for you to do your best and succeed!**