

AUDITION ADVICE

WHAT TO DO:

- Present a professional image. You only get one chance to make a first impression.
- Take control of the situation. Plan what you are going to play and what you are going to do.
- Dress for the occasion
- Be on time and be warmed up
- Make sure that your instrument and reeds are working properly
- Leave your case(s) outside the room
- Have your instrument out and ready
- Introduce yourself
- Get the committee's attention
- Speak clearly and look people in the eye
- Know correct pronunciations
- Listen to a recording of the excerpts so that you will be familiar with traditional tempos
- Choose music that is appropriate. Get advice.
- Don't change repertoire less than one week prior to the audition
- Prepare well in advance.
- Demonstrate your ability and facility.
- Dazzle with your blazing technique.
- Show the depth of your musical soul.
- Show confidence without being cocky.
- Communicate if you have a legitimate problem (well before the audition).

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Do not make excuses or apologies (for anything).
- Do not draw attention to problems (the panel may not notice).

WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- "I haven't warmed up."
- "I haven't had a chance to practice."
- "I didn't know..."
- "Nobody told me..."
- "I just got this horn."
- "What should I play?"
- "I don't have my instrument (sticks, etc.)"
- "I didn't bring any music with me."

AUDITION EXECUTION:

Guidelines by Eric Hoover, President of the National Flute Association.

- Give yourself plenty of time to do everything (i.e. get up early, have a leisurely meal, arrive early to the audition, etc.).
- Avoid over-practicing which may cause fatigue
- Warm up well and practice audition material under tempo.
- At the site: 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.
- Maintain a positive appearance even if you do not play well.

Remember that the members of the auditioning committee want nothing more than for you to do your best and succeed!!