

Chautauqua School of Music
Instrumental Program

Guidelines for Submitting a Recorded Audition

The selection process at Chautauqua involves auditioning through recorded digital platforms. Below is a list of tips for success in this process. These guidelines will help represent you and your abilities well and ensure a fair assessment from the auditioners.

Dress professionally. Consider your background and lighting, and avoid things that might be distractions or detract from the professional image you want to project. It doesn't need to look like a concert hall or recording studio, it just shouldn't be distracting.

As a baseline, using a typical practice room, classroom, or teaching studio, place your recording device such that you can stand 6-8 feet away while playing. Recording in a recital or concert hall is fine, but please keep your recording device fairly close (not out in the audience area). Test the recording and listen to ensure it is a natural sound, resonant, but still clear. Can the listener hear the details of tone quality, articulation and facility in your playing? If the space and final recording are too resonant and echoing, your chances for acceptance are diminished as the auditioner cannot make a good assessment of the qualities of your playing. Churches, for example, can tend to be overly resonant such that we don't get a clear impression of your work. Please keep clarity in mind when listening back to your recordings

Make sure the image is not backwards, or upside down.

Trumpet and Trombone: avoid pointing directly at the microphone (this goes for live auditions too, avoid pointing directly at the committee). Positioning your bell about 15 degrees away from the mic or committee works well. This allows the room to let your sound blossom, covers the slight impurities of sound that most players have all while maintaining clarity of detail.

Be sure to include music that shows stylistic, technical and musical challenges
For accompanied works, skip long introductions and interludes from piano or other accompanying instruments.

For the orchestral repertoire, there are suggested excerpts, but you can substitute others if you like. Choose those that represent your ability and strengths.

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

This should be about one to three minutes. Some good topics to consider might include, but are not limited to, the following: Where are you now? Who is your current teacher (and any former teachers you want to mention)? Why do you want to come to CHQ, what do you hope to get

from the experience? What got you interested in music? Is there a certain kind of music about which you are especially passionate? What would you like to do for your career? Share something interesting about yourself, musical or otherwise. Give the committee an idea of who you are.

For musicians just getting started in a professional career, the impressions we make early in our careers can stay with us for a lifetime. We encourage you to take this, and every audition or interview, as an opportunity to show the music world a professional representation of your finest work. Thank you for your interest in Chautauqua's School of Music, and we look forward to hearing you.