

**“Tips on Auditioning and Playing in Public”**  
**The Ohio State University, School of Music**  
**Practice Audition Day, Friday, October 19, 2012**  
**Dr. Caroline Hartig, Associate Professor of Clarinet**

**PRE-AUDITION DAY TIPS**

1. Do your research well in advance of your audition to select the 3-4 music programs that best match your future goals as a college student and beyond.
2. Seek the advice of your private teachers, band/orchestra/choral directors and other professionals and students who have attended the programs you have selected.
3. Meet the major applied teachers, and have lessons with them in advance of the audition. Most professors are happy to meet with you prior to your audition for a gratis lesson. Do you feel a good rapport with this teacher?
4. Make sure to know the audition repertoire requirements for each university music program. Make a chart or list of the required repertoire for each program. The requirements vary from school to school. Try to select repertoire that will overlap so that you do not have to have too many pieces to maintain over the audition period. Repetition is useful.
5. Play your audition several times for your teachers, colleagues and others.
6. During practice, imagine yourself in an audition setting.
7. Combine run-throughs with isolated practice of difficult technical passages.
8. Practice consistently well in advance of the audition. Don't cram for your audition. This method does not work. While it may work for a math exam, music auditions require consistent and strategic practice.
9. Sit in on ensembles or studio and academic classes.
10. Tour the music facilities as well as the university overall to get a sense of the atmosphere and environment.

**AUDITION DAY TIPS**

1. Be EARLY! Build in additional time in the event you get lost inside the building or during travel. Find your audition room as soon as you arrive.
2. Warm up and have your music ready. Instrumentalists should have your equipment ready to go. If you need repairs on your instrument have these done at least a week before. Even minor adjustments can take a few days to get used to.
3. Dress professionally and comfortably.
4. Be polite, don't be afraid to ask questions and show an interest.
5. Let your passion for music and the music you are playing shine through.
6. Choose your tempos carefully. Don't rush through your prepared pieces or scales and sight-reading. Keep rooted in your breathing and remain poised. Don't panic if you make a blip or mistake. It is the recovery that counts.
7. Don't panic if you don't get to play all of your pieces or scales.
8. Be prepared for sight-reading and look through the tempos, notes and markings before beginning to play.
9. Be prepared to perform some things that you may not have expected. Perhaps the teacher might ask you to try a phrase a different way to see how you respond to his/her instruction.
10. Don't fret if you are not perfect. Remember you are being judged on potential. Enjoy the process and remember how much you love music! GOOD LUCK!

