

# Video Audition Guidelines

## RECORDING DEVICES

You can record yourself using a wide range of devices video camera, laptop, or webcam on your desktop computer. The simplest, though, is usually to just use a smartphone. Many phones have excellent video and audio quality that are more than acceptable for your video audition. Be sure to follow the guidelines below to set up your device properly.

## FRAMING

Place the video recording device so that you, your instrument, and your full range of motion are in the frame at all times. Make sure your music stand does not cover your face, instrument, arms/hands and range of motion. Center yourself and be sure to include full head, shoulders and waist/chest. Ensure that you are shooting in landscape (horizontal) framing and not portrait (vertical) framing whether you use a camera/phone/tablet or computer.

- Make sure to put your camera/phone/tablet/computer on a stable platform or tripod – do not move the camera during your take.
- Also – try to get the camera at eye level so that we aren't looking “up one's nose” or “down” on your head.
- Shoot with the most neutral background behind you. Avoid any walls with distracting pictures, wall hangings, etc. In addition, make sure that there's nothing that seems to be visibly protruding from your head, like a lamp, plant, etc. that can often be visually distracting. Remember to of your ceiling fan if it is on.
- Whether you are sitting or standing, your entire body should be included in the shot. This helps the judges assess your technique and posture. For the purposes of the audition, you want to make sure that the judges can see everything that you're doing.
- It is best to use the rear camera rather than the front facing (selfie) camera as the rear camera is typically a higher resolution.
- Shoot at eye level – not from below! Here's an example of good framing:



## LIGHTING

- Make sure you aren't backlit – meaning that there's more light hitting the front of your face than the back of your head. See the examples below for good vs. bad lighting.
- In addition, you want to avoid as many harsh shadows as possible, so try to turn in the space so that your face is as well lit as possible.
- You can always use a laptop/tablet screen in front of your face open to a blank webpage or document as a nice white light to enhance your face.
- Below are some examples of good/bad lighting and framing:

Subject is backlit from

a window (BAD)

Subject is front lit by a light (GOOD)



Overhead Light



Side Light



Direct Bright Light

## AUDIO

Try to place your recording device at least 8-10 feet away for better audio quality. You want to record as close to your device as possible, while still maintaining good framing. Also, it goes without saying, you want to record in as quiet a room as possible. It's also good to consider the acoustics of the room itself.

## TEST IT OUT

Before doing your official recording, you'll want to do a test to make sure that everything is working. Record a short video of you playing a section of your music, preferably a louder section, then watch the video back, checking to make sure everything looks good and—more importantly—sounds good!

## READY TO RECORD

Be sure to play back your final recording before turning it into a YouTube video. We will not be able to accept a different recording once it's submitted. When recording, you'll want to play through your audition music a few times within one take. Instead of starting and stopping the video every time, just keep recording and go through your audition repertoire two or three times. Getting the right recording takes time, and you won't get it on the first try.

**Make sure you organize your music so you can go from your solo to excerpts with minimum of downtime in between.**