

Tips For A Successful Music Audition

- *Know your audition requirements.* Each school has specific audition requirements. Make sure you carefully read over what is expected from you at the audition.
- *Start practicing early.* Begin working on your audition material a minimum of six months before the date of your audition. This will give you plenty of time to be comfortable with the music.
- *Perform for an audience.* Playing the audition material in front of an audience will simulate the performance anxiety of the real audition and show you what you need to work on.
- *Choose music that highlights your strengths.* Most schools allow you to choose your audition pieces within certain guidelines. Pick music that you are confident playing and allows you to express your unique creative voice.
- *Make sure your instrument is in top condition.* Change your strings and have your guitar set up by a professional a few days before the audition.
- *Don't try to cram.* This will only create stress and anxiety. If you have prepared properly, then you only need to warm up and relax on the day of your audition. Your prior hard work will pay off.
- *Show them you are passionate about your music.* Judges don't expect you to be a virtuoso, they want to see that you have the enthusiasm and discipline to stick with a challenging music program.
- *Be respectful yet confident.* While judges don't want overly confident 'show offs', they do want to see that you take yourself seriously. This should be reflected by the way you dress and present yourself.
- *Take care of the details.* Make sure you know the date, time, and location of your audition and plan all of your travel arrangements ahead of time. Be sure that all the necessary paperwork is filled out and give yourself extra time so you don't have to rush. You want your head to be free of distraction on the day of your audition.
- *Make sure **you** are in top condition.* Get plenty of rest and eat a balanced meal. Practice breathing and relaxation exercises to control anxiety and clear your mind.

David Irelan helps guitar students prepare for music school auditions and college level classes. He is a graduate of The New School Jazz Guitar program and professional working musician.

Cultivate Your Talent • Challenge Yourself • Audition Brilliantly

Join me May 15th, 2010, 2-4pm for an open studio event where you'll have the chance to play vintage Fender gear, make a recording to take home, and learn how I can help you get into music school.

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