



Instrumental Audition

Students interested in auditioning for instrumental music should prepare a video using the specifications listed below. If you plan to audition for more than one instrument, you must record a separate audition video for each one. Any instrumentalist who feels qualified may audition - you do not need to be enrolled in private lessons or your school's band/orchestra program to be considered.

Part I – Audition Video

Perform two contrasting prepared pieces:

- Perform two musical works that showcase as many of your skills and abilities as possible. These may be traditional solos, etudes, improvisations, or original compositions, etc.
- Your selections may be in any genre or style
- Introduce each piece before you start with the title of the selection and the composer (if applicable).
- Your selections should not be longer than 5 minutes each.
- Percussionists are encouraged to present a mallet piece and a battery piece if able (drum set, multi-percussion, etc.)

File Submission

- Record the video using the highest video quality possible.
- Upload the video to a **share folder** or **YouTube**.
- Create a PDF with the URL to the location of your video and submit it to the following file submission. Include your First and Last Name, School, and "Instrumental Audition" as a title to the PDF. **Please ensure you have granted public access to the video.** WVDE and GSA staff must be able to view the video(s).
- **You must include your first and last name in the file or video name.**

File Submission: <https://tinyurl.com/38ku6h34>

An example of what the PDF file should include:

**John Doe
Pocahontas County High School
Instrumental Music Audition**

Audition Video Link:

https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/dllambert_k12_wv_us/Eb

Part II – Interview

You will be invited to a virtual interview, where the instrumental instructor will speak with you and lead you through additional exercises:

- Major and Minor Scales - Two octaves of up to 4 sharps and flats
- Aural Skills - Pitch and rhythm matching, finding appropriate pitches in individual chords and progressions
- Improvisation - Short melodies in a question-and-answer style

Conversation

- Be prepared to talk about your experience in music—school/church/community ensembles, private studies, performance experience, etc.
- Be prepared to talk about why you are passionate about music and what you want to learn by attending GSA.

Audition Tips:

- Begin the video by stating your name and school.
- Dress professionally for auditions.
- Choose pieces that you know and can perform well.
- Your selections can be of any style or genre, but should vary and showcase a wide range of your abilities.
- You will be assessed on pitch/intonation, rhythm, and musicality. It is better to hear a simpler piece performed clearly than a difficult piece performed poorly.
- Ask your music teacher for advice about your selection and for tips/suggestions on how to better prepare for and present your GSA audition/interview.
- Think through and plan for all the things you'll need to make your audition work (Smartphone or other video recording device, accompanist, means to play audio with your creations, checklist/setlist/script, etc.)

- Practice your audition! In addition to practicing your solo pieces and melodic creations, practice taking the successive steps for what you will do and say. Writing a specific script of what you'll say may help to navigate the steps and calm your nerves.
- If it helps, record your audition multiple times, but your performance of each piece should be one uninterrupted take.

Zoom Set-Up Tips:

- Go to Audio Settings found at the bottom of the menu when you select the small icon beside the mute button.
- Under the “Audio Profile” category, there are two options to help your instrument be heard:
 - Select “Zoom Background Noise Removal” and make sure that the “Background Noise Suppression” is set to “Low” **OR**
 - Select “Original Sound for Musicians” and deselect all option in the category
- Close settings and there is then a button on the top left corner of your zoom video screen that needs to say “Original Sound for Musicians: On”. If it says off you can click the words to turn it on.
- Check zoom on your device before the audition and ensure that the settings work and that your instrument can be heard through zoom audio. Test this over a zoom meeting with another computer in a different room or location.
- Check the video angle of your audition space to ensure that you, your instrument, and your active limbs can be seen while playing.