

# Preparing for Collegiate Auditions

## *Clareidoscope 2025*

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### **Non-playing Preparation (Administrative and Logistical Planning):**

- Prepare all logistics for the day of the audition (clothes, weather, food, sleep, when to warm up, etc.).
- Know the Audition Requirements.
  - Don't be afraid to contact the Clarinet Professor if anything is unclear.
- Have your materials ready ahead of time (resume, personal statement, pre-screening recordings).
  - Have your professor(s) or colleagues proofread and review these materials to help you.
- Don't be afraid to email the Professor to introduce yourself and ask questions. A personal email is often helpful before the audition.
- Know the Audition Day Schedule.
- Plan your travel schedule and logistics once you arrive (find the correct building, warm-up rooms, and audition rooms/offices).
  - Arrive early!
- Plan what to wear for your audition (more importantly, be aware of what not to wear). Be professional but comfortable and confident.

### **Playing Preparation:**

- Practice Performing. Knowing your music and being able to play through it is the first step. It is important to practice performing that material once you know it.
  - Perform for peers, in Studio Class, in Master Class, on Social Media, etc.
  - Remember that the goal is not perfection, but being able to recover when needed and giving a good musical performance.
  - Know that the audition committee is on your side! We want to see you succeed and help you become the best player you can be.
- Plan your practice schedule and your practice routine for each practice session. Make the appointment with yourself a top priority.

- Have a warm-up that focuses on your fundamentals every day (breath, tone, intervals, articulation). It's important to nurture your fundamentals and not lose sight of this when preparing audition repertoire. The committee will be able to hear if you have weaknesses in your fundamentals.
- Take care of yourself. Do the things outside of playing that keep you healthy physically and mentally (eat well, rest, exercise, stretch, breathing exercises, do things you enjoy).
- Be sure you have reeds prepared.
  - Have a variety of reeds broken in and ready. You may need to adapt to weather, humidity, or altitude changes, so it is a good idea to have varying strengths of reeds ready to play (some that play a little soft and some that play a little hard).
- Don't forget to listen to recordings of your repertoire, if possible. It's important to have a concept of the sound and style you are working toward. While you don't necessarily want to imitate a recording exactly, listening to several recordings helps you to interpret and make phrasing/musical decisions that are appropriate to the piece/excerpt/style.

### **The Audition Day:**

- Follow your logistics plan (when to wake up, what to wear, what and when to eat, etc.).
- Many times the committee will allow you to choose at least your 1st piece and sometimes your entire order. So have a logical plan for the exact order you would like to play in, but also be ready to do it in what order you are asked. It's good to think about which things are B-flat or A, and which things would be good to get you started.
- Follow up with the committee/faculty member with a thank you email, even highlighting something you learned from your audition experience.
- Be early!
- Be prepared to warm up in a large room with other people. This may be the situation for some auditions, so be mentally ready for how to handle this possible scenario.
- Be yourself. We are on your side and want to get to know YOU!
- Have water with you.
- Remember that we are not looking for perfection—we are looking forward to hearing you play, and we want to help you be your best.
- Don't be afraid to say hello and introduce yourself when you enter the audition.
- Smile, be happy, project confidence, and be excited about what you are doing!
- Be sure to make eye contact and thank the committee when you are done.