



General Guidelines for Preparing Placement Audition Material

1. Pay close attention to the metronome markings for each excerpt, and work to stay as close to these markings as possible.
2. Focus carefully on the accuracy and integrity of **rhythm** in each excerpt – your steadiness of pulse is vital. Working with a metronome is crucial to your preparation - rhythm is one of the primary things that determine success in an audition. Consistency of rhythm is often one of the clearest indicators of a player's level of preparation.
3. Pay close attention to the details of dynamics, and be sure that an audible difference is made when dynamics change.
4. Be sure you are familiar with any foreign terms on the page, and that their meaning is reflected in your performance. Check carefully for any transpositions which might be marked.
5. Listen to recordings of the pieces – multiple recordings, multiple times. Your awareness of the context in which the music occurs is reflected in the way you perform each excerpt. Looking at the score of each work is also very helpful.
6. When practicing, vary the order in which you work on the excerpts, so you are ready to play them in any order.
7. Record yourself playing the excerpts and listen critically to the details of how they sound. Play your excerpts for friends or classmates.
8. Get a lesson with your private teacher or another professional player, specific to these excerpts.
9. Don't be afraid to be musical! Within the boundaries of tempo and style which you have learned from your study and listening, let yourself play as musically as possible.
10. Prepare to the point where you can play each excerpt to the best of your ability – *the first time you play it*. Consider that the level of preparation must be the same as it would be for a recital of an entire piece, even though the length of the music is much shorter. Auditions go by extremely quickly, and there is rarely a chance for a second attempt at an excerpt that has gone poorly.