



# Shooting Stars Tips for: Brass, Winds & Percussion Auditions

## 1) BE PROFESSIONAL

- Keep up-to-date with your calendar.
- Prepare and submit all materials on time.
- Plan and prepare repertoire with your nominating teacher and/or private instructor
- Use this opportunity to help you prepare for college auditions if you are planning on majoring in instrumental music.

## 2) LOOK PROFESSIONAL

- Dress for the occasion. Remember: you want the judges to think about you, not about your clothes.
  - plan audition clothing well in advance.
  - practice in your clothing, especially shoes and possibly restricting jackets and ties
  - make sure all clothing fits well and is cleaned and pressed! You want to be comfortable yet professional. Don't wear revealing clothes or shoes, which definitely means no flip flops!
  - coordinate accessories: jewelry, shoes, neckties, etc.
- Options to consider: suit or coat, necktie or not, please, no t-shirts. Also consider either a dress or pants and a nice blouse, height of heels, length of skirt, hair style (it's important that your hair is out of your eyes!).

## 3) ACT PROFESSIONAL

- When you introduce yourself also introduce the selections you will perform and the composers.
- Show confidence and enthusiasm, but not arrogance.
- Present yourself professionally. Judges not only consider your technical ability (playing/performing all the notes), but also your musicianship (how you play/perform, and how you play/perform with your accompanist).
- If you make a mistake, don't show it! Keep playing/performing. Judges aren't necessarily looking for perfection as much as they are looking for potential.

## 4) SOUND PROFESSIONAL

- Maintain a regular daily practice schedule
- Your choice of selections should:
  - be age and technically appropriate
  - be material that moves you; shows your passion and strengths
  - show your flexibility, i.e. contrasting pieces by two different composers
  - meet all criteria of the Shooting Stars Scholarship Guidelines
- Study scores with care; there should be no rhythm or note mistakes.
- Work to infuse the music with feeling and purpose; communicate and tell the story.
- Practice in front of a mirror.
- Remember, if standing for your audition, practice standing and holding your instrument; if sitting, practice sitting and holding instrument.
- Arrange for accompanist now (if using one) to make sure he/she is available for audition date
- Practice with accompanist (if using one)
- Arrange for a practice audition - at home, at school, etc. - with your nominating teacher, private instructor and/or parents available to provide feedback/critique.

## 5) CONTACT THE ARTS COUNCIL WITH ANY QUESTIONS

- Email [artsjoco@artsjoco.org](mailto:artsjoco@artsjoco.org) any time!
- Call 913-894-2720. The Arts Council answers the phone and returns voicemails Monday-Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.