



**CENTRAL KENTUCKY  
YOUTH ORCHESTRAS**  
PREPARATION AND AUDITION DAY TIPS

### Leading up to the audition...

1. Prepare early and often; Don't cram. The best way to feel confident about your preparation is to start early and build the foundation of your audition. No amount of cramming the week of the audition can replace work you put in the bank earlier.
2. Check on the maintenance of your instrument and accessories. This might be a good time to make sure your instrument is in good shape (ie. strings, pads, reeds, etc...).
3. Play a mock audition for friends or family. There's no better way to practice the experience of auditioning than to actually try it. Pull together a supportive audience and perform your audition for them. Feeling a little nervous might help you be prepared for the actual audition in front of judges you won't know. (Perhaps even perform the mock audition in what you are planning to wear for the audition, including footwear.)

### On the evening before the audition...

4. Make a packing list for the next morning. Pull together your instrument, accessories, music, what you're going to wear, what snacks you might want to bring, etc... so you don't have to go looking for things in the morning.
5. Get a good night's sleep.

### On the day of the audition...

6. Have a good breakfast; be hydrated. Help your brain and body function as well as possible.
7. Dress in a way that makes you feel confident in yourself and projects a sense that you take the audition process seriously. You may think that dressing up is mostly for the judges, but dressing more formally than your daily outfit also helps remind you that this is an important event.
8. Play your instrument at home the day of the audition. Make sure it is in tune and that you have your music, extra strings, mutes, etc.
9. Make a plan with your parents about whether you want them to come with you into the warm-up room or give you some space. Maybe they can help you get settled and look after your gear while you use the bathroom, but then head to the parent waiting room once you are tuned up. Maybe you want them there with you right up until the time of your audition. Either way, talk about it in advance so everyone is on the same page.
10. Know your scheduled audition time and plan to arrive early. Take into account issues with traffic and/or parking.
11. When you arrive at the audition, identify the location of the warm-up room, your audition room, a water fountain, and a bathroom.
12. Plan to take a few moments to yourself before your audition. Warm-Up rooms can be noisy, so you may want to find some quiet space to feel fully prepared.
13. When the audition proctor calls your name, head into the audition room. Take a deep breath, smile at the judges, and have fun!