Tips and tricks for your audition video  
*Courtesy of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra*

- State your name at the top of your video. Also be sure to state which scale you are playing and the name of your prepared piece/excerpt(s).

- Stay within the frame. It is okay to move your head, hands, and body - be natural not stiff. Your face, hands, instrument and bow stroke (if applicable) should remain in the frame while you are playing.

- There is no specific dress code requirement, though dressing nicely may help exude more confidence and wearing pajamas is not encouraged.

- Stand close enough to the camera so that we can see you but not so close that the sound quality distorts, or part of your instrument is out of the frame. We recommend making a test recording to make sure you are happy with the way it looks and sounds. You will not be evaluated on the quality of the device, but we do want to be able to see and hear you in your best form.

- Don’t leave your recording for the last minute. Practice the music you’ll be submitting well before the deadlines and don’t leave the final recording for the last day. A number of things can go wrong with the recording, so plan ahead, figure out what you’re going to record with, get your questions answered, and fix any problems with enough time to meet the deadlines. It may also be helpful to record a few practice videos in advance.

- If possible, ask your private lesson teacher and/or school band or orchestra director for help preparing for your video.

- Breathe. Everyone wants you to succeed!
How to frame your audition video

**GOOD:**

- The player’s instrument and hands are in the image
- Strings: the fingerboard and contact point (where the bow touches the string) are clearly visible
- The player is clearly lit
- There are no distracting elements

**BAD:**

- The music stand is blocking part of the view
- The light sources in the background make it hard to see the player clearly
- The player is turned so that the fingerboard and contact point are not visible

**GOOD:**

- The player may stand or sit, either is OK!
- We see the player from the front, at a slight angle
- The player’s instrument and hands are in the image
- The player is not too close to the recording device
- The player is clearly lit
- There are no distracting elements
- The music stand does not block the view of the fingers or embouchure
**BAD:**

- The music stand is blocking part of the view
- The fingers, embouchure, or instrument are not visible

The recording device is too close
Bright light sources in the background make it hard to see the player clearly.