

Tips for Audition Recording

AIM

- To record sound and video for an audition video
- One continuous recording
- Recorded on one device

Sound

- The ambition is to capture instruments cleanly; clean of the room acoustic, background noise, and recording noise and distortions.

Video

- To show a well-lit picture of yourself, with good framing and a background that is not distracting.

What you'll need

- One device to film
- list of what's required for your audition
- all music and excerpts ready and within reach

How to record sound

The ambition is to capture instruments cleanly; clean of the room acoustic, background noise, and recording noise and distortions.

- Dry room acoustics are best;
 - Soft furnishings e.g. carpets, sofas, cushions;
 - Furniture that breaks-up reflections e.g. bookshelves
 - Medium sized room best;
 - But be mindful of video considerations and what is in your background!
- Minimise background noise;
 - External noise e.g. traffic, roadworks, bin collection;
 - Internal noise e.g. washing machines, extractor fans, neighbours;
 - Listen for any furniture that might rattle whilst you play;
 - BUT there will always be SOME (so just do the best you can.
- Record 1-2m from instrument
 - Mic pointing directly at instrument;
 - clear line of sight (not blocked by stand);
 - often slightly above the instrument or in front of the bell, are best;
- External microphones are best, inbuilt phone mics are good inbuilt laptop mics are poor;
 - We are asking you to record sound and video on the same device;

- If you have an external microphone you can connect it (but don't buy one just for this);
- But don't record sound on one device (e.g. laptop + microphone); video on another (phone) please as we don't want editing.
- Please no sound post-production:
 - Editing;
 - Mixing;
 - Reverb;
- Do a sound check before recording, and listen back to recordings before submitting them;
 - Room acoustic?
 - Background noise?
 - Distance?
 - Mic gain (clean / noisy / distorted)?

Getting your picture right

Consider your environment first:

- If possible, do not film in your bedroom. Choose a communal space if you can guarantee or schedule a time you won't be disturbed.
- If you only have a bedroom to film in, make sure it is tidy!
 - Try and position yourself in front of a plain wall or background, ideally without your bed in shot.

Lighting

- Set up in an area with plenty of natural light. You should face the light or be at a slight angle.
- If the sun is so bright that your face is overexposed, move away from the window or use the curtains.

Framing

- Make sure you're able to position your device on a firm surface LANDSCAPE
- The camera should ideally be at head height - at least chest height.
- In the frame you should be able to see from just above your head to just below your chest.
 - exception is cellos/basses - you will need to move your camera further away so you can also see your bow/bridge in the frame.
- Check how much you move once you start playing. If you move out of frame too often, change your starting point so that you stay in frame all or most of the time.
- Don't cover your face/instrument with your music stand. Make sure the stand is either completely out of shot or mostly out of shot.

General tips:

- Make sure your device is in flight mode so a call or text does not interrupt your filming.
- Make sure your camera lens is clean!

- Do a few test runs before recording the 'real thing'
- Make sure you have all your materials to hand so that there is minimum delay in between each segment of the audition requirements.
- If you are interrupted during what has otherwise been a really good take, just take a moment and carry on.