

# AUDITION GUIDE

## **TAKE WEEKLY PRIVATE LESSONS (if you are not already doing so!)**

Most students who will be auditioning will have already been studying privately for varying amounts of time. I would be delighted to give you a list of names of private teachers in your area if you need. Tell your private instructor that you are interested in auditioning for music schools, and ask your private teacher to teach you not only your solo for Solo and Ensemble festival but the technical foundation and musical skills you will need to be successful for your college entrance.

As part of your private lessons, learn your major and minor scales by memory, Be able to play these slurred and articulated. Always practice these with a metronome, and work to be able to play all keys at the same metronome speed. As part of your audition for EMU, you will be expected to perform Major and melodic minor scales.

## **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.**

Make time to practice at least an hour a day, six days a week. Two hours is even better! Incorporate fundamental skills such as long tones, technical studies, and articulation in that session as well as repertoire.

**APPLY EARLY** for admission to EMU and any other school you are interested in attending. September or October is not too soon. For almost all schools, you will need to apply for admission to BOTH the university and the music school. Search for any scholarships for which you are eligible and make sure you meet the admissions deadlines.

**SCHOLARSHIP** At EMU, the Presidential Scholarship competition, our top scholarship competition, occurs the first two Saturdays in December. If you have a 3.3 gpa you may qualify to take this exam and receive a scholarship. Priority deadline for application to take the exam is November.. Check the website for eligibility: <http://www.emich.edu/admissions/visit/psc.php>  
For consideration for ALL academic scholarships at EMU, you must be admitted to the university by February.

**PLAY A SOLO AT DISTRICT SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL** You can likely use the same solo as your audition music for auditions for music schools. Start learning the solo NOW. Enlist your teacher's assistance to find a solo that works best for you.

**PLAY PROFICIENCY III AT STATE SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL**, You do not have to have passed proficiencies I and II to play Proficiency III, you just have to be a senior. For Proficiency III, you need to learn all your scales major and melodic minor and sight read. This will only help you be ready for your music school auditions, especially since you'll have to perform scales and sight read as part of your audition at EMU.

**PREPARE AN ENSEMBLE FOR FESTIVAL** in addition to your solo. Extra practice preparing chamber music and learning as much repertoire as possible are only beneficial to your musical growth.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVENTS LIKE EMU CLINIC DAY** or Honor Band in January. Other schools offer similar events. Visit the campuses of schools in which you are interested. Get to know the clarinet professors. Meet the other clarinetists in the clarinet studio. (Feel free to talk to the EMU clarinet studio members today! They are a terrific group and will answer any questions you may have.) Find the place where you are most comfortable yet challenged to reach for your very best.

**COME TO CAMPUS FOR A LESSON** I am always delighted to offer a "get acquainted" lesson at no charge at our mutual convenience. Contact me at [Sandra.jackson@emich.edu](mailto:Sandra.jackson@emich.edu). You are invited to visit campus on another day and "shadow" a clarinet major for the day by going to classes and rehearsals.

**AUDITION EARLY** for admission to the Music and Dance Department at EMU. We have audition dates in January, February, and March. On audition day, you will audition on clarinet as well as take theory and piano placement exams.

**KEEP PRACTICING and STAY IN TOUCH** after the audition. You can expect to hear the status of your audition no later than April 1. At your audition, I will ask if you are auditioning at other schools, and I encourage you to do so!! If you make an early decision about another school, I would be happy to know that. In the meantime, I can keep you updated about where things are in the EMU process.

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**Summary Time Line:**

**September:** Take private lessons (if not already in progress.)

**November:** Apply for admission to EMU. Apply for admission to EMU Music & Dance and request an audition date. Apply to take the Presidential Scholarship Exam, if eligible. Attend EMU Clinic Day and audition for Honor Band. Start preparing solo repertoire for District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

**December:** Presidential Scholarship Exam, if eligible. Contact Professor Jackson about a "Get Acquainted" lesson. Keep up the private lessons. Continue preparing for Solo and Ensemble.

**January-March:** Have a lesson with Professor Jackson. Visit EMU campus. Perform for District and State Solo and Ensemble festivals. Audition for the Department of Music and Dance at EMU and other schools. Stay in touch with Professor Jackson.

**April:** Final results from EMU sent.