

rob and noa's

AUDITION CHEAT SHEET

bulletproofmusician.com/auditioncheatsheet

PHASE 1: CONCEPTUAL

rob's quick tips and links

#1. If you do extensive listening, you'll have the authority to make musical decisions and confidence in the interpretation you choose.

click here for rob's blog:
how to choose a tempo

#2. From the moment you start working on the notes you need to be incorporating the musical elements that the audition will be grading on, like rhythm, intonation, phrasing, tone, and more.

click here for rob's blog:
how an audition is won

audition list
announced

noa's quick tips and links

#1. DON'T practice the notes separately from the music; your musical ideas will change and evolve over time as you become more familiar with the music, but DO take the time to form at least some concept before diving in.

click here for noa's blog:
What comes first, the notes or the music?

#2. Even when it comes to intonation, DON'T just take a stab at it blindly; DO try to hear it in your head before going for it.

click here for noa's blog:
Technique for finding your misplaced keys.

PHASE 2: TECHNICAL

rob's quick tips and links

#1. As you prepare excerpts, don't lose the work you've already done. Document every problem and solution so that you can start right where you left off the day before.

click here for rob's blog:
5 simple ways to retain your work

#2. When making tweaks and adjustments to your excerpt, put yourself in the shoes of the committee by recording yourself from a distance and hearing how you sound in a bigger room.

click here for rob's blog:
rob's self-recording guide

noa's quick tips and links

#1. DON'T simply aim for more repetitions; DO take a moment to form a clear goal before each practice attempt, and pause after the attempt to reflect on what went right and what needs to be tweaked on the next attempt.

click here for noa's blog:
Things experts do differently when practicing.

#2. And while time management can certainly be a challenge, DON'T neglect the fundamentals; DO make sure to set aside some time for the exercises that keep the foundation of your skills in good shape.

click here for noa's blog:
Why I'd be more diligent at practicing scales.

PHASE 3: PERFORMANCE

rob's quick tips and links

#1. Nerves will pop up as long as there are unfamiliar feelings. Make sure you get used to every transition, from picking up your instrument to walking into a silent room to doing an entire beginning-to-end mock audition.

click here for rob's blog:
stop shaking on soft snare drum

#2. The actual audition shouldn't be the first time you experience the audition moment. Force yourself to experience it over and over by doing realistic mock auditions for real people.

click here for rob's blog:
how to prepare for the actual audition moment

audition
day

noa's quick tips and links

#1. DON'T try to fight your nerves or tell yourself that you're calm when you really aren't; DO try to embrace your heightened state of activation as excitement instead.

click here for noa's blog:
What's better: calm down or get excited?

#2. Much like in Phase 1, DON'T simply cross your fingers and start excerpts without getting into the right mental and physical state first - even when doing run-throughs with nothing at stake; DO practice getting "centered" and making this a habit well before the day of the audition.

click here for noa's blog:
How to make performance anxiety an asset.