

# Tips, Tricks, & Best Practices For Digital Auditions

With many applications moving to a digital format for competitions, colleges, and contests, here are strategies to help your students prepare recordings, comply with requirements, and showcase themselves as a musician.

## Preparation

*Professional equipment is not necessary. It's more about the music than the video.*

### Device

- A tablet or smartphone is all you need.
- If the audio quality is subpar/muffled consider an external microphone.
- *Resource:* a simple tripod to ensure stability (\$20-\$30 on Amazon).

### Location

- Find a quiet and clutter free space.
- Your studio is perfect.
- If you have access to a stage, this is another great option.

### Lighting

- Use natural light if possible or warm lamp light, but be careful about combining them.
- Only set up light in front of the student. Backlighting washes out the shot.

### Setup

- Setup device horizontally (landscape orientation).
- Be sure to capture the student, their hands, and the instrument.
- Treat the the camera as if it were the judges.

## Execution

*You get a second chance. Remember the goal is to capture an honest and natural performance.*

### Test

- Run a technical dress rehearsal with everything in place.
- Test the dynamic extremes of the piece.

### Recording guidelines

- Read the guidelines carefully and comply with everything required (i.e. Should the recording be one continuous take? Is there a time limit?).

### Submission requirements

- Check for additional requirements such as adding a spoken introduction.
- Organizations may ask for a video essay as well, which can be filmed on the same day.

### Treat as a live audition

- Dress appropriately and follow audition etiquette (i.e. memorize the music).
- Keep playing from start to finish! The performance quality may diminish after 3-5 takes and it's better to have one complete recording than none.

# Completion

*Seek help if you are having difficulty troubleshooting.*

## Transfer file

- Import the recording to a computer so you can review the quality and prepare the file.
- Trim the beginning and end as necessary, but do not edit further within the recording.
- Save/publish the recording file. Do not just save it in the editing program.
- *Resources:* iMovie, Windows Movie Maker, QuickTime.

## Troubleshoot

- Compress the file if it exceeds 4GB and convert it to a better file type (we recommend MP4).
- *Resource:* Handbrake ([handbrake.fr](http://handbrake.fr)).

## Deadline

- Start the process of recording early, giving yourself ample time to get everything right. Though unlikely, if technical difficulties arise, you want to be ahead of the game.
- Don't be part of the 40% that submit within the last 48 hours of the deadline.

## Maximize your efforts

- With your setup in place, schedule all of your students to record their auditions during the same week or month.
- Help your student find other opportunities to use the recording ([getacceptd.com/directory](http://getacceptd.com/directory)).

# Resources

*Acceptd is here to help!*

## Questions about the session?

Contact Bryn Sowash ([bsowash@getacceptd.com](mailto:bsowash@getacceptd.com))

## Quick Help Links:

- [Importing your video from an iPad to your computer](#)
- [Fixing a distorted video](#)
  - [iMovie](#) (for Mac users)
  - [Quicktime](#) (for Mac or Windows users)
  - [Handbrake](#) (for Mac or Windows users)
- [Compressing your video with Handbrake](#)

## Submitting an application on Acceptd?

- Help Desk: [support.getacceptd.com](http://support.getacceptd.com)
- Email: [support@getacceptd.com](mailto:support@getacceptd.com)
- Phone: 888-725-2122



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