Ohio Wesleyan University

Music Department

Tips for Audition Recordings

Please note that this information is intended as a guide and should not be taken as requirements. We encourage you to create your best recording with the technology reasonably available to you.

General Tips

- Utilize the best available technology you have
- It is not necessary or expected to record in a studio, or to have highly technical recordings
- An iPhone/smartphone can produce successful recordings, though some extra recording equipment may be helpful (ex. an external microphone, earbuds, tripod)
- Recording: Be yourself and present your best work!

Recording

- Record in a room with good acoustics
- Keep in mind that any sort of background noise can interfere with overall audio quality
- Make sure the space is adequately lit
- Check recordings for any distortion or excessive "buzz"
- In general, neutral backgrounds (and clean spaces!) are preferred
- Dress professionally, as you would for an in-person audition
- If filming on an iPhone/smartphone:
 - o Horizontal videos are generally preferred
 - o Make sure that the lens and microphone are not covered or obstructed

Editing and Submitting

- An individual work should be in a single, unedited take. No splicing.
- Allowable edits: adjustment of overall sound level (to ensure that the volume is neither too loud nor soft), trimming the start or end of a recording to remove long spaces
- Review your recordings before uploading to ensure that they are of good quality and represent your best work to date
- You can reduce the size of your video file by:
 - o Trimming at the beginning and end of the video
 - Using file-reducing software such as QuickTime Player (Macbook only), VLC, or Shotcut
- Most video file types are acceptable, such as avi, mov, mpeg, mp4, and wmv. However, be advised
 that there have been reported issues with uploading .mov files created on the iPhone 11, and you
 might need to convert these to a different file type.