

Swimming with the Big Fish

-What Your Students will Face if They Audition for a Conservatory-

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Why Is This Important?

1. Access to Information

The internet is allowing more and more students access to colleges outside of the state

2. Teaching Discipline

A successful conservatory education will teach a student discipline – regardless of whether they go on to employment in their performance field. How many doctors, lawyers, and successful business men do you know with a music background?

3. Raising the Bar of Your Program

Students wanting to audition for the big conservatories are more than likely your top talents. If these students are successful they push everyone else in your program ahead. They help “set the bar.”

4. You are the Student’s Primary Resource

To the students you are a walking encyclopedia. It’s our job to guide our students in the right direction. Their success is our success.

Consider your Options

What kind of school do you want to attend?

3 Kinds of Music Schools and Their Purpose

1. Schools focused on Music Education – Most state schools
(Univ. of Oklahoma, Univ. of Oregon, etc...)
2. School focused on Music Performance – Conservatory
(Eastman, Curtis, Juilliard, etc...)
3. Hybrid schools – Combining the two – best of both worlds
(Univ. of Michigan, Indiana University, Arizona State, etc...)

Where is the best fit for your student?

- Location
- An institution affiliated with an orchestra?
- The school and teacher’s track record?
- Do you and your studio teacher “click”?

Opportunities

What is Each School Going to Be Able to Offer Your Student?

State School

- Generally, not an intense musical environment relative to the other discussed institutions
- Might not be able to offer the performance opportunities the conservatory and hybrids can offer
- Grades? Very important
- Very broad, well rounded curriculum (bachelors degree)
- The most economical of the 3 choices
- Academic and merit scholarships
- Excellent for music education

Conservatory

- Very intense musical environment
- Excellent performance opportunities
- Grades? They generally don't care about your 1600 SAT
- Limited general education curriculum

*However there are opportunities:

Eastman/University of Rochester

Peabody/University of Maryland

Juilliard/Columbia University

- Private institutions with tuition ranging from 28k-35k
- Scholarships based on merit only

Hybrid

- Intense musical environment
- Excellent performance opportunities
- Grades? Important
- Very broad, well rounded curriculum (bachelors degree)
- Tuition is between that of a state school and a conservatory
- Academic and merit based scholarships
 - More scholarship opportunities than a state school
- University might exist in a remote area, but has invested in world renowned faculty

Network with your chosen schools to ask questions, etc...

Finances – “Where There’s a Will There’s a Way”

- Grants
- Private donors from your town
- Scholarships you have to apply for
- Student Loans
- Unique university policies – For example...

At the University of New Mexico if you enroll for 9 months as a student and work during the 3 summer months (12 months total) you can get in-state tuition the following year with a State ID and proof of employment.

Application Fees?

- Budget for this expense
- Talk to your school counselor about application waivers

Screening Applicants?

- Making a tape?

Send out your applications

•Deadlines!!

Applications are usually due: December 1st

Audition Dates: End of February through beginning of April

Establish a Plan for Productivity

•Write down your detailed plan for success

•Success is almost inevitable when the goal becomes an inner commitment. Researchers agree there is nothing more important than writing it down.

•Writing specific objectives and reviewing them frequently will help you release the energy, creativity, and the drive to attain them.

•A **Harvard Business School** study found:

–83% of the population *does not* have any clearly defined goals

–14% have goals, but not written down

–3% of the population has goals that are written down.

–The study concluded that the 3 percent that did have written goals were earning an astounding 10 times that of the 83 percent group.

Ask yourself:

- How are you going to practice?
- What are you going to practice?

Hint: Focus on your Weaknesses

- What kind of local resources can you take advantage of to help your process?
- What kind of repertoire is required for conservatories?

****When in Doubt – Figure it Out****

Don't rely on "word of mouth" - ask someone that **knows!**

Check the school's website, call the teacher, current student, or alumni

Route? How to get to the audition.

Plan your *entire* Trip

- Driving, Flying, Bus? Which is cheapest?

- After your audition – What to do? Sight-seeing/restraints/shows, etc...

Visualize Success

- Are you doing everything you can do to insure success?
- Record yourself – Do you like what you hear?
- Are your musical ideas clear?
- How hungry are you to achieve your stated goals?

****Now is the time to set up mock auditions****

- Play for someone that makes you nervous.

•Is There a Secret to Success?

Its **WORK**...and more **WORK**. And when you think you're finished...**WORK** some more!!

You don't go to the audition to beat everyone else – you go to display the best product you have to offer.

Audition Time

- Warm-Up Room – Ignore the pandemonium
- Other Students – Don't get psyched out. **Everyone** has weaknesses
- Audition Panels – Be prepared for this. Some auditions will just be you and the teacher and other schools will be you and the entire brass faculty. Call ahead and find out. Be prepared!

Tune in to Yourself

Time to Focus

- How can you stand out among the masses?

Many students can make...

1. Great Sound
2. Great Intonation
3. Great Rhythm

Few students can make...

1. Great Music

Observe some “Me” time

- Step back from the audition process
- Reflect on the bad and **good** things you did and MOVE ON
- Enjoy you “me” time – look around the city, have some ice cream!

Rest

- Results: Waiting for audition results can take up to a month *after* your audition.
Be patient!!

•Duality

Get used to turning negatives into positives!

So what if you didn't get into “X” conservatory – You **did** get into “A”, “B”, and “C” conservatories!

You can control what?

“You can't change the wind, you can however adjust your sails” - Unknown

- What you can not control:
 - Where you live
 - The size of your school district
 - How well the competition will perform
- What you can control:
 - How you practice
 - How **much** you practice
 - Your motivation and attitude
 - How well **YOU** perform

The 7 P's

The 7 P's **can** mean the difference between **success and failure**

- Prior
- Proper
- Planning
- Prevents
- Pitiful
- Poor
- Performance

**Abide by the 7 P's and the result is going to be something positive...
the rest is out of your hands**

- C – Consider Your Options**
- O – Opportunities**
- N – Network**
- S – Send Out Your Applications**
- E – Establish a Plan for Productivity**
- R – Route?**
- V – Visualize Success**
- A – Audition Time!**
- T – Tune in to Yourself**
- O – Observe some “Me” Time**
- R – Rest**
- Y – You control You**

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