



## **Audition Tips for the Wisconsin Singers Band**

### **→What to wear – think professional**

- .Remember, how you dress is your first impression and lets the audition panel know you are serious about your audition.
- Men: a nice shirt and slacks. Don't worry about wearing a tie or jacket.
- Women: dress or blouse and skirt or slacks. Stay away from anything low cut or revealing.

### **→How to pick a solo**

- Be prepared to play two solos, one up tempo, one down tempo.
- Pick solos that showcase your talent. For example, if you have an expressive high register on your instrument, pick a solo that features that range.
- Pep band, musical theater, jazz, and top 40 pieces are all great choices.
- Be sure you are playing the melody of the song for your audition. For example, if you're playing a pep band chart, play the melody line.
- Music does not need to be memorized nor do we need a copy of it for the panel.

### **→Preparation**

- For the interview, practice talking about your musical experience, and explaining your involvement with musical organizations in which you have participated. It's also good to have examples of leadership experience prepared.
- The ability to recover from mistakes is just as important as a perfect performance. When rehearsing your solos, if you make a mistake, keep playing so you can do this in your audition.
- Practice in front of a mirror to develop a good stage presence while playing. You are probably used to be behind a stand in a full band but in Wisconsin Singers Band, you are a part of the stage presentation.

### **→Sight-reading and secondary instruments**

- Familiarize yourself with major, minor, and chromatic scales; do not be concerned about whether the minor scale is harmonic, melodic, or natural minor.

- If you play multiple instruments, bring them and have a solo prepared to play on each. We often incorporate doubling instruments into the show.
- You will be asked to do some simple sight-reading. We look at your improvement the second time through a sight reading example, so do not stress out about getting it perfect the first time.

→ **When you arrive (30 minutes prior to your audition)**

- Bring everything you need to keep your instrument in working order, i.e. valve oil, drum key, extra strings etc.
- Make sure to warm up before you arrive for your audition. We will have a few forms for you to fill out and will allow you time to play a little before you come into the audition room.
- During the interview portion of your audition, do not be afraid to ask questions. We use this part of the audition to get to know you better!
- Relax, smile, and have fun!

→ **We want to get to know the real you in the interview**

- Be yourself. We cannot emphasize this enough! The whole point of the interview process is for the audition panel to get to know YOU. We work closely together and travel together – we are looking for students who are comfortable with themselves in any situation.
- Smile. Present yourself as having a positive outlook on life.
- Answer truthfully. We've interviewed a lot of students over the years and can spot someone who is saying what we want to hear rather than what's in their heart/mind.
- Give some thought to the role you think you would play as a new member. What can you offer to the troupe?
- Humility is a valued character trait in this business. You do not have to impress us with what you know, but rather, who you are!

→ **What to expect**

- RELAX! Take some deep breaths and share yourself with us. We are really interested to get to know you.
- Think about how you can incorporate personal strengths and successes into your answers. It is also nice to hear about real life examples of how you achieved success by overcoming an obstacle, or how you learned from failure.
- Remember that we are not trying to put together a troupe of thirty identical personalities. Diversity is key to keeping one's sanity when we spend so much time together. We are simply looking for individuals who understand their strengths/weaknesses, take direction well, and get along with others.