

## **Hints for a Successful Audition at The College of Saint Rose**

### **Private Study**

It is generally unrealistic to expect that participation in high school music programs alone will adequately prepare students to enter college as a music major. Most successful applicants to college music programs have studied music privately. That is not to say that all of our entering students have studied privately while in high school, but private music instruction can only help your chances for a successful audition. If you have not studied privately you are strongly encouraged to get some private lessons with a good teacher before you audition.

### **The Audition**

The audition is the single most important factor in deciding which students will be accepted to The College of Saint Rose Music Department. It is also how the music faculty decide who they will recommend for talent scholarships. Here are several things you can do to improve your chances for a successful college audition.

- Select and develop audition repertoire as far as possible in advance of your audition. Your junior year of high school is not too soon.
- Be sure to observe the audition requirements.
- Choose repertoire that demonstrates your ability to perform in a variety of styles and tempos. Fast movements that demonstrate your technical abilities as well as slow movements that demonstrate good tone quality, intonation, and vibrato (if appropriate) would be a good combination.
- Choose repertoire that is appropriate to your level of expertise. An easier piece played well will be more successful than a more difficult piece played poorly.
- Practice performing mock auditions for your music teacher(s) and your friends.
- Get a recording of the repertoire you will be performing. You may have difficulty finding a recording at your local entertainment store, but recordings of most traditional repertoire can be found on-line at websites such as Amazon or iTunes. Listen to the recording many times while you follow your music. Try to perform along with the recording. All of these things will help you to “internalize” the music until it feels comfortable to you.
- Choose something to begin your audition that you feel comfortable with. You will probably be most nervous at the beginning of your audition so start with something you are most confident with.
- Be prepared to play several scales.

- Submit all application materials to The Saint Rose Admissions Office as far in advance of your audition as possible. Observe all deadlines carefully.
- Practice sight-reading so you will be able to sight-read effectively at your audition.

Be sure to schedule your audition as far in advance as possible by calling The College of Saint Rose Music Department Audition Hotline at 518/337-2348.

Schedule your audition as early as possible in the school year. **If you wish to be considered for a Talent Scholarship it is mandatory that you audition before February 1.**

### **Tips for Your Audition Day**

- If you live a long distance from Saint Rose try to arrive the day before your audition so you can get a good night's sleep.
- **You and your parents/guardians are required to attend a meeting at 10:00 AM on the day of your audition.** Plan on getting to The Massry Center for the Arts at least one hour before this meeting so you have plenty of time to warm-up and get used to the surroundings.
- Don't "over practice" in the days immediately preceding your audition. You want your "chops" to be at their strongest.
- Bring a copy of your resume for the auditioning committee, even if you have already submitted one with your application.
- Remember that your audition begins the moment you enter the audition room, not just when you begin performing your audition repertoire. Dress professionally, speak confidently and respectfully, smile and make eye contact with the adjudicators.
- Don't worry about minor mistakes during the audition. The adjudicators are not expecting a perfect performance-they are mainly interested in your future potential.
- You probably won't get to perform your audition repertoire completely from the beginning to the end. The adjudicators may ask you to play only certain sections of your music.