

Here are Ms. May's recommended steps to getting ready to tape:

Review the audition requirements early and discuss your goals with your private teacher. Ms. May and Dr. Cespedes will be happy to talk with you about what orchestra is a good fit for you next year.

With your teacher's guidance, choose a solo piece that you can play along with your other audition requirements on the audition recording. It is better to pick a piece that you can play well rather than a "reach" piece that doesn't show your best.

Pick a recording date and stick to it. Give yourself an alternative date in the unlikely event that you have technical issues or other unforeseen problems.

Once you have a date picked for a recording, begin practicing like you are actually going to take a live audition.

Schedule regular lesson times and work on improving your practice techniques to help you become the best player that you can be for your audition tape.

Try scheduling a practice audition a few weeks before your actual taped audition to work out these items:

- Does your equipment work and can you upload from this equipment?
- How are you going to have a clock in the background?
- Is your video flipped? What can you do to fix that?
- Is it clear who is playing?
- Can you see both hands in the recording while you are playing?
- Can you hear your sound? Is the sound distorted?
- Are there a lot of distractions going on in the background that might prevent you from doing your best?
- Try to learn from this practice recording. Are you doing what your teacher asked you to do?

It's ok if your pet walks through the room during the audition, but do try to make the surrounding area quiet for the duration of the recording.

Make sure you know the order of recording. Get your script and music in order. Then record it. That's it. Do it once, maybe twice. But not more than that.

Not every audition is perfect, so don't expect perfection. Just do the best you can.

I look forward to hearing your effort!