



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Illinois State University

Streaming or Upload Recommendations

General Recommendations:

Dress professionally for your recorded audition. Make sure you are in a quiet space free from distraction; avoid bright lights in the background and turn off any overhead fan. Make sure that both you and your instrument are fully visible. The use of an external microphone is highly recommended. Thank you for auditioning at Illinois State University!

Special Considerations from our Faculty:

Instrument	Instructions
Bassoon	See general recommendations
Cello	Both arms and hands must be clearly shown; the camera should be 5-15 feet from where you are seated. Sit so that you are facing directly at the camera, and not at a side angle. The use of a good quality camera and microphone is highly recommended; if you must choose between better video or audio, please prioritize good audio quality. Please record each selection as a separate file. Please provide a document which provides full titles and names of composers for each repertoire selection.
Clarinet	Listen to the quality of the recording before you send it in. You may need to experiment with moving the microphone further away or closer so the sound is clearly audible but not distorted. Make sure that your whole upper body is visible in the video. We need to see your hands and face as you play. At the beginning of the video state your name (slowly and clearly!), what degree you are applying for (Music Education, Music Performance, Music Therapy, etc.), why you want to major in your choice of majors, and the pieces you will play. We look forward to seeing your video!
Classical Guitar	Do not use your laptop or webcam mic; an external microphone is preferred. You may use a phone or tablet, but only if it is a recent model (for example, iPhone 11 or iPad 6th generation and up). Make sure both you and the instrument are fully visible, especially both hands (landscape mode on phones and tablets is best). Be at least 3-5 feet away from the recording device. Introduce yourself and announce each piece/composer before you play. Have fun and don't be afraid to smile!
Double Bass	See general recommendations



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Euphonium	Experiment placing the microphone in different locations several feet away from the bell of the instrument and if possible, get the microphone up higher as well. Avoid placing the microphone too close to the bell of the instrument as you want the natural reverberation of the room to help warm up the sound. Finally, listen back to your recordings before you submit. Does the recording accurately sound like “you”? If not, experiment with different microphone locations. This is not an exact science and varies greatly from space to space. Good luck!!!
Flute	See general recommendations
French Horn	<p>While it is certainly encouraged, you don't have to record using an external microphone. If you have one and you're comfortable with using it, then please do use it. If your comfort level with recording begins and stops with your smart phone, that's fine too. Just be aware of trying to use the best space you can and not pointing your bell directly at the recorder but instead slightly off center.</p> <p>For some tips, consider: A brass instrument's sound is greatly affected by the room in which it's recorded. Perhaps the single most important point to consider in microphone placement when recording brass instruments, is that the microphone should be trying to capture the room sound and therefore shouldn't be placed right at the end of the bell.</p>
Oboe	See general recommendations
Percussion	Percussion Video Audition Recommendations
Piano	<p>If possible, please show a view of the whole body, including pedals. At a minimum, your upper body, including your head, your hands, and the entire keyboard should be clearly visible. The hands and keyboard are of primary importance.</p> <p>The use of an external microphone is highly recommended.</p> <p>For music that is required to be memorized (see the repertoire requirements for each degree), please put down the music rack, and otherwise be sure it is clear from the video that no sheet music is in front of you.</p>
Saxophone	See general recommendations
Trombone	While it is certainly encouraged, you don't have to record using an external microphone. If you have one and you're comfortable with



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	<p>using it, then please do use it. If your comfort level with recording begins and stops with your smart phone, that's fine too. Just be aware of trying to use the best space you can and not pointing your bell directly at the recorder but instead slightly off center.</p> <p>For some tips, consider: A brass instrument's sound is greatly affected by the room in which it's recorded. Perhaps the single most important point to consider in microphone placement when recording brass instruments, is that the microphone should be trying to capture the room sound and therefore shouldn't be placed right at the end of the bell.</p>
Trumpet	<p>While it is certainly encouraged, you don't have to record using an external microphone. If you have one and you're comfortable with using it, then please do use it. If your comfort level with recording begins and stops with your smart phone, that's fine too. Just be aware of trying to use the best space you can and not pointing your bell directly at the recorder but instead slightly off center.</p> <p>For some tips, consider: A brass instrument's sound is greatly affected by the room in which it's recorded. Perhaps the single most important point to consider in microphone placement when recording brass instruments, is that the microphone should be trying to capture the room sound and therefore shouldn't be placed right at the end of the bell. For the trumpet try placing the microphone about 4 to 6 feet in front the instrument and a few inches above or below the line of sight of the bell. Point it about 40 degrees off axis. This will help to cut down on air sound as well as capture more of the room sound.</p>
Tuba	<p>Experiment placing the microphone in different locations several feet away from the bell of the instrument and if possible, get the microphone up higher as well. Avoid placing the microphone too close to the bell of the instrument as you want the natural reverberation of the room to help warm up the sound. Finally, listen back to your recordings before you submit. Does the recording accurately sound like "you"? If not, experiment with different microphone locations. This is not an exact science and varies greatly from space to space. Good luck!!!</p>
Viola	<p>Make sure that both hands and arms are visible. It is suggested that the instrument's f-holes face the camera, and that the video is</p>



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	centered on the waist through the top of the head for the closest possible view of the student's posture and technique. The use of an external microphone is highly recommended.
Violin	Make sure that both hands and arms are visible. It is suggested that the instrument's f-holes face the camera, and that the video is centered on the waist through the top of the head for the closest possible view of the student's posture and technique. The use of an external microphone is highly recommended.
Voice	Position the camera so that your head and torso are visible. The use of an external microphone is highly recommended.