

All-County Help Day with the Larsens

All-County vs. All-State

- The audition is a different experience:
 - behind a screen vs. being recorded
 - less preparation time
 - quicker results
 - the judge may be your band director
- There are different expectations:
 - All 12 scales asked, but more time given.
 - No Sight Reading.
 - The etudes are significantly easier, or shorter.
 - Less material to judge—so first impressions are lasting.
 - Tone is much easier to judge in person than from a recording

Scale Preparations

- Know the order of the scales.** Tongue up, slur down.
- Plan your breaths** and enforce them.
- Use correct fingerings for all notes**—esp. in the 3rd register!
- Pay attention to your tone quality.** Are you playing with a lovely sound?
- Work with a metronome.** Get all scales at the same tempo!
- Scales can be musically expressive. Shape the scale.**
Crescendo to the top, decrescendo to the bottom.
- Learn and memorize the arpeggios!!!**
Practice them separately.
Play the arpeggio first, then the scale, then the arpeggio
Practice them chromatically (C, Db, D, etc) or in fourths (C,F, Bb, Eb,)
- Test yourself.** Draw scale names from a cup.
- Play them for a friend** or family member.
- Try playing the scales starting from the top** and ending at the top.
- Test your accuracy** by giving yourself one chance to play the scale correctly. No starting over!

Etude Preparation

- Know the scale (key)** of the etude.
- Know your tempo!** It's better to play slowly and accurately than fast and sloppy.
- Mark all your breath marks** AND enforce them.
- Make any necessary markings** (accidentals) on your music.
- Choose an appropriate articulation length** that fits the style of the piece.
- Play the dynamics.** Shape the phrases when there are no dynamics present.
- Play assertively and confidently.**
- Emphasize the stylistic differences** between the two etudes.
- **Visualize yourself playing beautifully** at the audition.
Hear and see it in your mind.
- Try to memorize the etudes.** How far can you get?
Where your memory breaks down is where you need to practice.

Further Audition Preparation:

- Record the etudes and scales** AND listen back to them.
 - Make note of mistakes and the places where the music breaks down, then work on those spots in an organized manner.
- Hold a mock audition---**Play for other people and ask for feedback.
- Practice in a different room** of your house to get comfortable playing in different acoustics.
- Visualize**, in minute detail, the perfect audition from start to finish.
- Learn and practice your scales and arpeggios in 3 ways:**
 1. Intellectually—key, tempo, notes, articulations, dynamics
 2. Aurally—by ear
 3. Finger memory

At the Audition

Be in “the zone”. Take the steps necessary to stay calm:

- Get a good night’s rest** the night before the audition
- Have your instrument and music packed** and ready to go.
- Arrive early** and take time to warm up slowly.
- Stay focused** on your own playing while warming up. Take headphones or ear buds to block out the sound of others warming up.
- Avoid socializing with friends** before your audition.
- Eat right**, whatever that is for you.
- Hydrate** (water is best). If your mouth gets dry when you get nervous, consider taking the water bottle with you into the audition.
- Eat a banana** an hour before you play. It’ll help calm your nerves.
- Don’t judge other people** or make comments except to compliment.
- BREATHE and think before you play.** Take time to regroup between pieces and scales
- Use good posture**—it will boost your confidence!

After The Audition

-**If the audition did not go well**, don’t be too hard on yourself. The audition is only a snapshot of your abilities on one day. Think of how far you’ve progressed since you started the flute.

-**Reward yourself** for preparing **AND** taking the audition.

-**If the audition went well**, note what you did that worked.

-**When the results are announced, ask yourself:**

1. **What did I learn about the experience?**
2. **What did I learn about myself?**
3. **How can I better prepare next time?**