

Tips for writing your College Music Resume

You might also consider including a separate page listing repertoire performed or studied.

Name and Instrument
Address
Phone, e-mail

Education

- Include high school (and, for transfer students, any universities attended), anticipated date of graduation, current GPA, SAT/ACT scores
- Private study: names of private music teachers, and the dates you've studied with them. If you've studied a secondary instrument (piano, voice, etc.), include this information as well.

Intended Major/Minor

- Don't worry if you're not sure of your major--but let us know if you're even *considering* majoring/minoring in music.

Music Experiences (include dates for each item)

- School ensembles
- Youth or community music ensembles
- Honor bands/orchestras
- Solo and Ensemble Contest/Festival participation
- Other ensembles
- Music camps
- Masterclass participation (specify whether you were a performer or auditor)
- Recitals
- Theory/history classes taken
- Musical employment/volunteering (have you taught private lessons? volunteered with a grade school band? accompanied the school choir?)

Music Honors and Awards

- John Philip Sousa awards, concerto competition winners, music scholarships, etc.

Other Honors and Awards

- What other (non-musical) accomplishments should we know about? Are you currently ranked first in your class? A National Merit Finalist? A successful member of your speech team?

Membership in Music Organizations (if applicable)

- Seattle Flute Society or National Flute Association, for example

Other Activities

- This is where we find out if you have a life outside of music. Don't list everything you've done since you were three years old, but if you were class president, spent a year as an exchange student, or found a cure for the common cold, let us know about it! You might also include work experiences or church involvement.

Interests

- Optional: 2-3 hobbies tell us a little more about you!

Tips for a Music Audition

- A live audition is best.
- Plan in advance! The audition committee will be impressed by students who call to ask questions of the studio teacher, send in materials early, and apply months ahead of the deadline. (Of course, if you're reading this a few days before - or even long after - a deadline, please contact me anyhow!)
- Quality matters. If you must send an audition tape, use a high quality tape (or better yet, use a CD). Consider this an investment in your future. Find the best pianist you can afford, spend an extra dollar or two on your tape, and send us your best effort. I really recommend sending your tape by FedEx, UPS, or another delivery service that can track your delivery--especially if you are sending it close to the deadline! Please contact me in advance to see if a tape will be acceptable.
- Know your music! We may ask for scales, so be prepared to play them from memory. (This means that you'll need to be familiar with key signatures for both major and minor scales...)
- Practice sight reading. Ask your teacher to make this a regular part of your lessons.
- Dress for success. I am often asked what auditioning students should wear. I recommend wearing something similar to what you'd wear for a job interview. Don't wear jeans, but don't wear your prom dress, either! (I've seen both extremes...)
- Contact your potential teacher in advance. Please make sure to ask if he or she has time to talk, as many teachers answer the phone during lessons. Many teachers are willing to meet with you in person before your audition, and most will charge a reasonable price for a trial lesson. This gives you a chance to get comfortable with your potential teacher before the stress of an audition.
- Set up a "mock audition" with your teachers, friends, and family. Play the pieces you'll play for the audition. Even consider wearing the clothing you will wear to your audition to make sure that they are comfortable and won't distract you. (Squeaky shoes or a too-tight waistband can make you really feel awkward during an audition!)
- Enjoy the music. Remember that the audition committee members are a positive bunch of people who want to see you succeed! If you are one of those people who get nervous before an audition, remember that all of us on the audition committee once had to audition for schools, too, and we are sympathetic with what you are experiencing! I am not too concerned about a wrong note here or there when it is otherwise obvious that a student is prepared -- I am looking for POTENTIAL, a strong WORK ETHIC, and a LOVE OF MUSIC.