

## Tri-M Music Honor Society



is an international music honor society for secondary school students (senior high and middle/junior

high) that recognizes musical achievements, motivates and inspires young people actively involved in music, and strengthens school music programs.

The Tri-M Music Honor Society has been providing years of "Service through Music" by chartering more than 3,900 senior and junior division chapters worldwide since 1952. In 1983, Tri-M became a program of MENC: The National Association for Music Education.

Every high school and middle school/junior high should have a Tri-M Music Honor Society Chapter! For more information or help in starting a new chapter, contact the Tri-M office at MENC.

For information on Tri-M Music Honor Society, contact

1-800-336-3768

Or visit [www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org)

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To purchase more brochures, contact MENC:

**MENC** The National Association for  
**MUSIC**  
**EDUCATION**

1806 Robert Fulton Drive ■ Reston, VA 20191

## How To



# Mail

## A COLLEGE ENTRANCE AUDITION

**MENC** The National Association for  
**MUSIC**  
**EDUCATION**



So you want to study music in college?

You will be entering a field that has many exciting rewards and challenges! But before you choose a college, you need to think about which area of music interests you most:

- Music Education
- Composition
- Music Theory
- Musical Theatre
- Music Therapy
- Music Publishing
- Music and Technology
- Performance
- Conducting
- Musicology
- Jazz Studies
- Popular Music
- Music Business

Get advice from teachers and current college students or recent graduates about which program best suits your goals.

Make sure to get the specific audition requirements for each college music department specialization for which you wish to apply (they will be different)!



## KNOW THE Score



## GET IN TUNE

Begin looking for a college as soon as possible—

It's never too early (end of senior year is probably too late)—many start by junior year. These questions can help you prepare:

- What instrument or area of music do you want to study? (Select a program based on your primary strengths and interests in music.)
- Are you taking private music lessons? (Studio lessons help prepare you for the demands of college study.)
- Are you studying music theory? Sight-reading? Ear training? Basic keyboard skills? (Give yourself a foundation in these essential skills.)
- Are you developing efficient practice skills and study habits? (Colleges look for music students with determination and dedication.)
- Find out about scholarships (need- and merit-based), loans, and work-study. You don't need to be a music major to be eligible for some programs. Search "Scholarships" on the MENC Web site at [www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org) for tips and links.

# 3 STEPS FOR A Successful Audition



## I. Prepare Your Resumé!

Every student should have a resumé to present at the audition. Tell your story on paper by giving your judges a quick summary of the basic facts needed to understand your experiences and strengths:

- Limit your resumé to one side of one page.
- Be brief and to-the-point.
- Use outline form, with highly visible headlines, such as “**PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE.**” Audition judges may only get a moment to glance at your resumé!
- Ask your teacher, counselor, or parent to review a draft before printing (even one mistake can influence the faculty’s opinion).
- Use high-quality paper and printing for the most professional look (the quality of your resumé will directly reflect your attitude and professionalism)!
- Include your resumé with college applications and audition request forms.
- Bring additional copies to each audition.

## 2. Set Up The Audition!

Every college music department has its own audition protocol regarding applying for and scheduling an admissions audition, as well as preparing the appropriate repertoire for that audition. Find out about **each** program’s audition requirements!

### Scheduling

Most colleges will not schedule an audition until all application forms are filed and in order. Some schools may require on-site auditions, but may not provide an accompanist. Most have specific time slots that fill up on a first-come, first-served basis—remember that scholarship money goes quickly during the audition season! As soon as you apply, find out when and how to schedule your audition, set up arrangements well in advance, and fulfill all requirements so that you can arrive completely prepared.

### Repertoire

Call each school directly for specific audition repertoire requirements. Then select pieces that play to your strengths. Musicality is more impressive than technical perfection.

### Advance Preparation

Before auditioning, visit each campus during “regular sessions” (if available, use your high school’s excused absence program to visit potential school choices, preferably during junior year). Meet the faculty, visit dorms, attend classes, and take a lesson from the applied instructor with whom you would study.

Find a reputable private teacher, if you do not already have one, to coach you on your audition repertoire. Seek out opportunities to develop teaching or leadership skills, along with summer music camp, youth symphony, or a music business apprenticeship; these extras not only enhance your resumé but demonstrate hands-on experience that shows through at an audition.



## 3. Show Your Stuff!

College auditions begin the minute you present yourself (even in the parking lot). Your professional attitude and appearance do make a difference—faculty look not just for talent, skill, and style, but for those students who apply themselves seriously and work cooperatively with others:

- Be courteous to everyone—an enthusiastic attitude is contagious!
- Dress appropriately—concert dress for ladies, suits and ties for men, both with limited, conservative jewelry.
- Arrive EARLY, and warm up in the location provided.
- Bring your music and anything else you need for a successful audition (such as extra strings or reeds).
- Bring extra copies of your resumé.
- Be focused, but flexible. (Assume that you will not start on time!) Judges are looking for students who interact well with others.
- No excuses, please—the faculty has heard them all.
- Ask questions based on your research which are appropriate to the particular institution where you are auditioning. Do not present yourself as a “scholarship shopper.”
- Always thank the faculty after the audition—a handwritten note adds a nice touch.

