

Hints and Tips for Colorado All-State Jazz Band VIDEO auditions

Beginning in 2024, the Colorado All-State Jazz Band is moving to a video audition format. We are doing this for two primary reasons:

1. By seeing student embouchures and technique, we can make sure we are placing the right people in the group.
2. By seeing the audition, we can avoid any unapproved* splicing during the audition

What you need to know:

1. VIDEO WILL TAKE A LOT LONGER TO UPLOAD TO THE AUDITION PLATFORM. Be sure you take this into consideration when you plan to do your uploading. School internet speeds are generally faster than home internet speeds.
2. * Students CAN splice together COMPLETE audition components to create their final audition – so a student can combine different audition component files into one final mp4. Individual component files may not be edited together from several takes - each component must be one take.
3. The AUDIO is more important than the VIDEO. If you are going to invest in any equipment, we recommend that you get the best sound possible. Our recommendations below are to that end.
4. The VIDEO should show all of you and your instrument - BOTH embouchure and finger technique for winds, and appropriate hand/stick technique for rhythm section.
5. Your final audition file should be less than 512MB.

Equipment:

You are welcome to use any video equipment you have, including a phone; however, if the audio quality isn't good, the student may receive lower scores for tone quality.

- In general, you can't beat the video quality of a good cell phone. The drawbacks to a cell phone: The audio is designed for speaking on a phone (imagine that), and depending on the type of phone, getting the video off can be a process. Test this process well in advance to check audio quality and ease of converting to mp4.
- If you are going to use a cell phone, you can GREATLY improve the audio quality by attaching an external microphone. We recommend the Rode Vlogger (about \$150.00 for the mic and accessories) or the Shure MV88+ (about \$250.00 for the mic and accessories). Both of those come with various connectors so be sure to get the one that will work with your phone.
- If you want an easier solution, we recommend the Zoom Q8n. This all-in-one video recorder has high quality built in microphones, a wide-angle Lens and records to a SD card, so getting the video off and onto a computer to upload is VERY EASY. The Zoom Q8n is about \$400.00 but might be a better option if you have many students recording auditions.



Shure MV88+



Rode Vlogger



Zoom Q8n