



Instrumental Music Audition

The theme for GSA 2025 is “Arts in Community.” When we create art, we interact with and serve our communities. West Virginia has a rich cultural history, with diverse communities expressing themselves through music, dance, theater, writing, and visual arts. We draw on this cultural heritage to foster community through art at GSA, empowering you to find community with other artists both in and outside of your chosen artistic discipline.

Any instrumentalist who feels qualified may audition, regardless of special training or formal involvement with organized bands or ensembles. Your audition will consist of two parts:

PART ONE: Video Performance

You must record a video audition where you perform the following tasks:

1) Perform two contrasting prepared pieces:

- Perform two musical works that showcase as many of your skills and abilities as possible.
- Your selections may be anything (established written solos, etudes, improvisations, self-composed pieces, etc.).
- Your selections may be in any genre or style
- Introduce each piece before you start with the title of the selection and the composer (if applicable).
- Your selections should not be longer than 5 minutes each. 10 minutes total.
- Percussionists are encouraged to present a mallet piece and a battery piece (drum set, multi-percussion, etc.).

File Submission

- Record the video using the highest quality possible.
- Upload the video to YouTube.
- Title your video using the following format: “Your First and Last Name – 2025 GSA Instrumental Music Audition”
 - uploading your video as “unlisted” will give you complete control over who can view it.
- Email the YouTube link to schoffler_t@wwvc.edu with the subject heading: “Your First and Last Name – GSA Vocal Music Audition 2025”
- If your prepared pieces have sheet music, charts, or lead sheets, please attach scanned copies of them (or links to them) to the email above.

PART TWO: Follow-Up Interview

You will be invited to a Zoom interview where music faculty will speak with you and lead you through additional exercises:

1. Scales- Two octaves of up to 4 sharps and flats
2. Aural Skills- Pitch and rhythm matching, finding appropriate pitches in individual chords and progressions
3. Improvisation

Interview:

1. Be prepared to talk about your experience in music—school/church/community ensemble private studies, performance experience, etc.
2. Be prepared to talk about why you are passionate about music and why you are interested in attending GSA.

AUDITION SUGGESTIONS:

- Choose pieces you know and perform well.
- Your selections may be of any style or genre, but should vary and showcase a wide range of your abilities.
- It is better to hear a simpler piece performed well, than a difficult piece performed poorly.
- Use your judgment! Ask your music teacher for advice about your selection and for tips/suggestions on how to better prepare for and present your GSA audition/interview.
- Think through and plan for all the things you'll need to make your audition work (smartphone or other video recording device, accompanist, means to play audio with your creations, checklist/setlist/script, etc.).
- Practice your audition! In addition to practicing your solo pieces and melodic creations, practice taking the successive steps for what you will do and say. It may help to write a specific script of what you'll say to help you navigate record calmly and efficiently.
- If it helps, record your audition multiple times.
- You will be assessed on pitch/intonation, rhythm, and musicality.

Zoom Video Set-Up Tips:

- Go to Audio Settings found at the bottom of the menu when you select the small icon beside the mute button.
- Under the “Audio Profile” category there are two options to help your instrument be heard:
 1. Select “Zoom Background Noise Removal” and make sure that the “Background Noise Suppression” is set to “Low”

OR

2. Select “Original Sound for Musicians” and deselect all option in the category

- Close settings and there is then a button on the top left corner of your zoom video screen that needs to say “Original Sound for Musicians: On”. If it says off you can click the words to turn it on.
- Check zoom on your device before the audition and ensure that the settings work and that your instrument can be heard through zoom audio. Test this over a zoom meeting with another computer in a different room or location.
- Check the video angle of your audition space to ensure that you, your instrument, and your active limbs can be seen while playing.