

# How to Audition for a Manitoba Honour Band

Mr. Klassen

## 1 - Preparation

Start early. Download audition material and application forms from <http://www.mbband.org/?page=Honourconcertbands>. Follow the links to Junior (5-8), Intermediate (9-10), or Senior (9-12) application forms, scales and etudes. National Youth Band of Canada information can be downloaded from the CBA website at: <http://www.canadianband.org/#!national-youth-band/cpda>

Read the instructions carefully and follow all directions. Note the technical and etude requirements. Note the deadline for receiving applications. Start early. Give yourself lots of time to prepare. Come to your band teacher or your private teacher early on for help. Did we mention to start early?

Practice all items slowly and accurately, increasing the speed as you are able. Never practice something faster than you can play accurately. The scales and arpeggios are very important. They are the first impression you will make on your recording. Practice to achieve your top speed, but on your recording be sure they are even and accurate. Take note of the specified articulations.

## 2 - Recording

Begin recording well in advance of the deadline. A few weeks before the application is due, try recording parts or all of your audition material. Give yourself time to try again if you're not satisfied with your first attempt. Bring a draft recording to your band teacher or private teacher for feedback. Give yourself every advantage by using the highest quality recorder you can get your hands on. (Make sure it's a wave file, not an mp3 format. It must be playable on a regular CD player.) Record in a room with good acoustics and experiment with microphone placement.

Never record over any previous takes. Keep each take you record in case you want to splice together your best takes later. Try to avoid noticeable splices. Don't talk on your recording. (Your recording will be identified to the audition committees by number only, and they should not hear any identifying information.) Be sure to listen to the entire final product before submitting. Make sure everything is complete and in the correct order.

## 3 - Handing Your Application In

You can either submit your audition online (make sure each file is an .mp3) or mail or or deliver a completed CD (make sure they are wave files playable on a CD player) and application form to the Manitoba Band Association Honour Band Committee, 5 Garnet Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3T 0L4. Seal your CD and completed application form in an envelope. On the outside print your name, grade, school, and instrument.

If you have further questions, call John Balsillie at the MBA office (663-1226).

Good luck!