

Donner Mine Music Camp
AUDITION PROCEDURE

Donner Mine Music camp seeks to promote the pursuit of musical excellence by providing challenging and enriching musical experiences that stretch young musicians toward their highest level of musical potential and joy. Our staff and counselors model the highest levels of musical proficiency and through their mentoring and personal excitement about music, encourage students to become passionate about digging in deep as musical learners. Auditions are just one part of the process that gives you the chance to stretch your skills and grow your confidence over time. You are encouraged to plan ahead and prepare your audition to demonstrate in a few short minutes the skills that you have already mastered so that we know how to set up the band and to see how best to help you throughout the week (in lessons, sectionals, with counselor help, etc).

Do's:

- Come prepared
- Pick a solo that demonstrates your skills in a way that you can execute confidently.
- Settle your breath before starting
- Take time to look over the music before your start your sight reading.
- Give it your best shot for your present level of development. Not all students come with the same amount of experience and that's okay. You are a work in progress and you're here to grow.
- Know that it is just a few moments of time and then it's a notch in your belt and you're off to meet more friends.
- Practice your scales before camp and try to extend the ranges if you can (from one octave to two or three).
- Ask your parents not to come to the auditions. They are not allowed there. You can do this on your own.

Don'ts:

- Play your part from band music if you can help it. Find a solo for your instrument. Your local music store is a great resource. So is jwpepper.com for solo collections at all levels. Ask your teacher or a fellow musician for ideas before you leave for summer.
- Play things too fast if slower will be more accurate.
- Let a frustrating audition shape your attitude about camp. We're all here to have a good time and we are glad you are with us, no matter what your seat or your experience.
- Don't prejudice the adjudicator against your audition by starting off saying how ill-prepared you are. Fake it till you make it. Just breathe and jump in.
- Play in the hallway of the auditions or near audition areas. Keep noise levels down.

Donner Mine Music Camp
AUDITION PROCEDURE

AUDITIONS:

Be prepared to:

I. Play **from** the following **Scales**. (You'll find scales on our website for your convenience)

1. The chromatic scale within your playing range (low to high and back down again).
2. Concert Bb major scale
3. Concert Eb major scale
4. Concert C major scale
5. Concert F major scale
6. Second week only: Concert G major.
7. Second week only: Concert G harmonic minor

II. **Prepared Solo:** Bring and play a selection of your choice lasting up to one minute. It should be selected to best demonstrate your tone, range, and technique. Have the music with you so the adjudicator can see it.

III. **Sight reading:** The adjudicator will pick a selection or two for you to sight-read from the band music for the week. Take a moment to look it over and set a reasonable tempo. Like setting out on a hike, you need to look over the map to see what the details are before you start: Key signatures, time signatures, tempos, accidentals, tough rhythms (set your speed for the hardest parts), and the Road Map (repeats, D.C. al Coda, multiple endings, etc). Set a beat for yourself before you start and try to keep the time even.

JAZZ AUDITIONS:

If you are interested in auditioning for the Jazz Band, prepare a second selection of a similar length to demonstrate jazz style. Let the concert adjudicator know you are interested in auditioning for the Jazz Band. **Drummers, be prepared to demonstrate different styles (i.e. Latin, rock, swing, etc...).**

People that play a different Jazz instrument, first audition on your concert instrument, then go with your other instrument to the appropriate Jazz instrument site (i.e. a flute player that also plays sax in jazz, etc).

PERCUSSIONISTS: You will meet with the Percussion instructor on the "Slab" for placement. Be prepared to demonstrate your knowledge of fundamental rudiments and mallet playing. Have a small solo excerpt for snare and/or bells to demonstrate your skills (Unlike the advice for other instruments, these CAN be from band pieces).

PIANO AND BASS will also audition on the slab. Be sure you bring a solo to demonstrate your skills.

Piano players should know how to comp chords.