



Are You Planning to Major in Music?

The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc. and
The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra are pleased to announce a
Music Major College Preparation Seminar
featuring Charlotte Symphony Orchestra musicians

You will quickly discover that applying to college or conservatory as a music major is very different from other college majors. To successfully navigate this process, you need to prepare, ideally a year or more in advance.

We are excited to provide students with the opportunity to learn first-hand from our CSO musicians, who have attended some of the top conservatories and music schools in the country – what it takes to successfully audition and succeed in applying as a music major.

We will be holding three Sessions on the following dates:

June 12, 2021 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (**Zoom only**),

September 18, 2021 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (**Zoom only**)

November 13, 2021 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The full Agenda is below.

If you are interested, please reserve a space by emailing:
office@symphonyguildcharlotte.org

MUSIC MAJOR COLLEGE PREPARATION SEMINAR

SESSION 1 – June 12, 2021 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

ZOOM ONLY

Panelists: Members of the Charlotte Symphony; Taylor Marino, Victor Wang, and Alaina Rea

- Selecting what schools to apply to
- Teacher
- Performance opportunity
- Non-performance education - City
- Atmosphere/Residence Life
- Repertoire Selection/Strategy
- Variety of styles and periods represented
- Play to your strengths
- Play familiar repertoire
- Build as concise a list as possible that satisfies rep requirements for all of your schools
 - ❖ Are you going to be playing with a collaborative pianist?
 - ❖ If yes, is the piano part accessible enough for an overworked pianist?
 - ❖ If yes, have you "learned" the piano part in addition to the solo part?
- University vs. Conservatory
- University (most schools)
- Music department is just one department within the larger university (no dedicated school of music)
- Music community typically smaller, many performance opportunities will be with non-music majors
- Opportunities to study other subjects/Meet other people/Double major
- Stand-alone conservatory (ex. Colburn, Juilliard)
- High-level environment catered to studying music
- Few opportunities to study subjects outside of music
- Music school within a university (ex. University of Michigan, Indiana University, etc)
- Dual-degree programs (Harvard-NEC, Columbia-Juilliard)
- What to look for in a private teacher
- Planning tours/Visiting campuses/Scheduling lessons and making first contact

SESSION 2 – September 18, 2021 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ZOOM ONLY

- How to record a successful pre-screen?
 - Proper equipment
 - ❖ Video vs. audio
 - How are you going to record? At a studio? At home? Who will be there with you to help?
 - Presentation/Lighting/Editing
 - Use an external microphone
 - ❖ Setting multiple recording sessions
 - Plan ahead so you aren't scrambling on recording day - treat it like an audition day
 - Writing a resume/Essays/General application
 - ❖ Include the category with your most notable achievements near the top
 - ❖ Reverse chronological order (most recent items in each category go first)
 - Resume should be catered to the type of school (i.e. a music-focused resume for a music school, more general for a university), one-page maximum
- Categories might include:
- Contact info (name, address, phone number, email)
 - Performance experience (ensembles--CSYO!)
 - Competitions
 - Music-related experience
 - Non-music related extracurriculars and leadership experience
 - If time allows, show some examples with do's and don'ts
 - Planning practice sessions (practice techniques), Have a plan for when you will learn everything
 - Record yourself
 - Mindful practice is more important than quantity
 - Set aside a week or two before the audition day to practice performance (run-throughs and mock auditions)
 - Scholarships information - Merit vs. Need-based
 - General information about how the audition day will go

SESSION 3 – November 13, 2021 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Central Piedmont Community College, Tate Hall (finishing touches/mock)

- Mock audition for the seniors or anyone who wants to play - Logistics depending on number of students involved
- Get feedback about how people felt playing mock audition
 - ❖ Discuss how presentation matters
 - ❖ Give tips for performance anxiety/nerves
- Centering/Meditation/Building Confidence - How to turn nerves into excitement
- Preparation helps the most with nerves
- Detailed plan for the audition day (before and after)
- Organization is key
 - ❖ What time will you get to the venue? How much time in the warm-up room?
How long is the audition?
- Planning the rest of the day after the audition
- Encouraging tips to nail the audition

ALL QUESTIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED IN THE CHAT ROOM DURING THE SEMINARS.

QUESTIONS AFTER THE SEMINARS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO: SYMPHONYGUILDCHARLOTTE@GMAIL.COM.

RESPONSES WILL BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU!!!