

- ? Preference is given to shorter pieces so that more students can perform.
- ? Include only 1 piece per tape. Different instruments are heard by different people.
- ? Does the camera view show the full body for posture and a clear view of the hands?
- ? Solo performers only. Do NOT record a group performance with an attached note telling which one is your child. NO costumes, clown hats, etc.—they tend to distort the performer’s appearance.
- ? Use a tripod if at all possible. Hand held cameras make poor audition tapes.
- ? Take a look at the background. Is there a dog barking, a jet flying overhead, a siren blaring outside? These sounds make it difficult to hear the tone of the musician! If the quality of the video sound is so poor that it makes the student sound out of tune or playing with a bad tone, it doesn’t lead to successful entries.
- ? View the light contrast. Is the performer standing as a silhouette against a bright light or a window? Make sure the soloist can be seen, including hands!
- ? **Preview the tape.** Listen for these criteria:
 - ✍ Is there sound?
 - ✍ Is there a picture?
 - ✍ Are the notes & rhythms accurate?
 - ✍ Is the solo played without stopping?
 - ✍ Is the tempo steady?
- ? Rewind the tape to the beginning. Do not request that we begin the tape where you have it pre-set. Tapes are heard several times and by different listeners so the solo must be at the beginning of the tape.
- ? **Package your tape/DVD carefully.** Each year several arrive with the cases crushed.
- ? Use the confirmation process of your shipping method. Do not call the office and ask if your tape arrived. We receive about 800 tapes each spring and checking is not possible.
- ? Mail the tape by the deadline. Late tapes are not accepted.
- ? The home private teacher must view the videotape and sign that they have approved the tape before mailing. As a courtesy to your home teacher, plan your timing to allow that the teacher has the tape at least 1 week before the mailing deadline.