

All State Preparation

Scales

1. Learn scales by fingering and naming and by playing them from the page (2 memory hooks)
 - a. To keep from experiencing “brain freeze” during an audition, having two hooks helps recall the scale when you need to
 - b. Knowing the correct notes for each scale and arpeggio helps you understand theory and ear training
2. Exact Tempo
 - a. As closely as possible you should adhere to the tempo marked on the scale sheet from gmea.org
 - b. You will not be penalized if you are a little off of the tempo
3. Exact Rhythm
4. Exact Articulation
 - a. Tongue up and slur down is un-natural but required
 - b. Watch when slurs end and tonguing begins and adhere to it
5. Hundreds of students will play the scales perfectly; you must also.
 - a. The scales are only required at the first audition. Don’t forget to prepare the chromatic scale (in any pattern you choose).
 - b. Note! Even if you play the scales perfectly at the first audition you will not necessarily make All State, you will just have kept from getting “cut”.

Prepare the Solo

1. Learn the Notes and Rhythms (finger and count)
2. Articulations/ dynamics (finger and “tah and ah”)
3. Technical passages (Additive Practice/slow to fast)
4. Recording yourself and use high-liters (three colors: yellow, blue, pink)
 - a. Using a new copy of the solo, record yourself and then mark any mistakes you hear with a high-liter.
 - b. Work on the mistakes for several days then repeat the process with a different color high-liter on the same solo
 - c. New mistakes will be in the new color, old mistakes that didn’t get corrected will be in a combination of the two high-liters
 - d. It doesn’t matter what order you use the high-liters, but varieties of color will tell you where you are not practicing effectively. Yellow+blue=green/ pink+blue=purple/ yellow+pink=orange/ all three together =brown and is an indication that you have not been successful in practicing a problem.
5. Have as many Band Directors & Private Teachers as possible listen to you
6. Hundreds of people will play the solo perfectly; you must also.

Sight Reading

1. This is the most important feature of the All State Audition in Georgia.
 - a. Sight Reading determines if you make All State (more than likely)
 - b. It determines how high you sit in your section as well.
2. Rhythm Sheets at www.banddaddy.com
3. 204 Progressive Sight Reading Tunes by Roger Winslow
4. Rhythm Etudes by James “Red” McLeod and Norman Staska
5. <http://www.practicesightreading.com/>
6. Three Rules for Sight Reading
 - a. Never Stop
 - b. Rhythm Comes First (not notes)
 - c. Play one dynamic louder than you think you should (so you sound confident)

7. On Automatic Pilot (the more you have to consciously think of any factors, the less success you will have in Sight Reading)
 - a. Tone Production
 - b. Notes
 - c. Technique (Use Pares Scales by Gabriel Pares arr. Harvey Whistler published by Rubank to build technique)
 - d. Rhythm
 - e. Musicality (if you can add dynamics you will score higher)
8. Hundreds of students will not sight read perfectly; you must be one of the best to get ahead. Not as many students know how to sight read well.

Other Factors

- Private Lessons....no one makes All State without individual help for many years prior to making it the first time.
- The quality of instrument and equipment is crucial. You need to have as professional a “set-up” as possible.