

## Hints and Tips for Colorado All-State Band VIDEO auditions

Beginning in 2024, the Colorado All-State Band is moving to a video audition format. We are doing this for two primary reasons:

1. By seeing student embouchures and technique, we can make sure we are placing the right people in the group.
2. By seeing the audition, we can avoid any unapproved\* splicing during the audition

### What you need to know:

1. VIDEO WILL TAKE A LOT LONGER TO UPLOAD TO THE AUDITION PLATFORM. Be sure you take this into consideration when you plan to do your uploading.
2. \* Students CAN splice together COMPLETE audition elements to create their final audition – so a student can combine different recordings of the major, minor, and prepared etudes, but they cannot splice different recordings of the major scale into a “final version”
3. The AUDIO is more important than the VIDEO. If you are going to invest in any equipment, we recommend that you get the best sound possible. Our recommendations below are to that end.
4. The VIDEO should show BOTH embouchure and finger technique for winds, and appropriate hand/stick technique for percussion.
5. The step-by-step instructions (available on the Auditions page of the Website on October 1) outline important instructions (especially for percussion). It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you follow this process STEP BY STEP.
  - a. These instructions give our recommendations for size and quality of the video. 4K video is not required (and will be huge, taking a lot longer to upload, etc.)

### Equipment:

You are welcome to use any video equipment you have, however, if the audio quality isn't good, the student may receive lower scores for tone.

- In general, you can't beat the video quality of a good cell phone. The drawbacks to a cell phone: The audio is designed for speaking on a phone (imagine that), and depending on the type of phone, getting the video off can be a process.
- If you are going to use a cell phone, you can GREATLY improve the audio quality by attaching an external microphone. We recommend the Rode Vlogger (about \$150.00 for the mic and accessories) or the Shure MV88+ (about \$250.00 for the mic and accessories). Both of those come with various connectors so be sure to get the one that will work with your phone.
- If you want an easier solution, we recommend the Zoom Q8n. This all-in-one video recorder has high quality built in microphones, a wide-angle Lens and records to a SD card, so getting the video off and onto a computer to upload is VERY EASY. The Zoom Q8n is about \$400.00 but might be a better option if you have many students recording auditions.



Shure MV88+



Rode Vlogger



Zoom Q8n