

Preparing Excerpts

Build confidence and consistency by following these steps. If you are not confident and consistent, you are not ready.

1. Look up terms; see how terms would affect interpretation

2. Listen to the excerpt in context with a score

Learn how your part fits in

Choose a minimum of 3 different recordings

Notice tempos – what is the average tempo?

Learn the entire part – not just the excerpt

3. Build confidence by playing hundreds of successful repetitions

Play for others

Play at various times during the day

Change up the order of the excerpt list

When you play for the committee, it should just feel like one more repetition.

4. Record yourself and scrutinize your performance as you listen to the recording.

Do this hundreds of times

5. Listen for the big three: tone, intonation, and rhythm

If these three basic musical attributes are not in tact, nothing else matters.

6. When you are practicing, be methodical, thorough, and honest.

7. Play with a section