



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND FINE ARTS

PREPARATION FOR BEING A MUSIC STUDENT

In planning to be a college music student, it is important for you to begin as soon as possible to prepare yourself to meet the challenges of your classes and lessons. The following suggestions are given to help you in getting ready to be a college music student.

-PRACTICE

Practice to get as good as you can on your instrument. Keep practicing through the summer, especially on studies and scales (major and minor).

-PERFORM

Look for opportunities to perform. Play solos or in ensembles for church services, community activities, or other gatherings. Performing will help you become more at ease and will assist you in becoming a better singer or player.

-BASIC MUSIC THEORY

Learn your scales and key signatures. Many resources are available on the internet, in libraries, from your high school choir or band director, local piano teachers, or in music stores. Don't be afraid to ask! Professional music teachers are pleased to help young people interested in preparing for careers in music.

-PRIVATE STUDY

Take private lessons.

-PIANO SKILLS

Learn to play the piano. Even the most rudimentary ability at the piano keyboard will give you a head start when you enroll for college music classes.

-SINGING SKILLS

All music majors are required to take classes in ear training and sight singing. Learn to sing using one of the many methods: Kodaly hand signs, solfege syllables, numbers, or other method suggested by your choir or band director. Practice writing a measure or two of melodies to songs you know: hymns or praise choruses, folk tunes, popular music, etc. and then check the music to see how you did.

-MUSIC LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Go to a camp. Direct music at a church. Assist your choir or band director in any way possible. Teach some private lessons to younger students -this will help you develop your own technique and make you a stronger musician.

-ATTEND CONCERTS

Go to concerts and recitals. HEAR as much music as possible. Make an effort to attend concerts of music that may not be your favorite or that you ordinarily would not hear -a symphony orchestra, for example. Who knows? You might like it!