

Tips for Your USF Flute Audition Recordings

Here are a few suggestions to help you navigate this process! Use technology that is both available and comfortable to you. Cell phones and tablets typically have excellent cameras and allow you to make successful audition recordings.

Taking a few extra steps can greatly improve how you present yourself, including these ideas:

- Use a stand, tripod, or reliable way to hold your phone or equipment
- Record so you are completely viewable and not hidden by a music stand; be at a slight angle if necessary
- Record in landscape (horizontal) mode, and make sure you are visible from the waist up through the top of your head. Be sure your entire instrument is visible
- Verify your test recording is not made in mirror image, with correct flute orientation
- Be sure to take sample recordings to check your levels: play your loudest (ff) and softest (pp) passages to avoid any buzzing or overloading of the mic
- Check for no obstructions to the (clean) camera lens and microphone. Covers may dampen quality
- If you have access to an external mic (not necessary), practice using it while connected to your device
- Choose a room with good acoustics: not too “wet” (boomy, reverberant) or “dry” (not resonant at all)
- Be mindful of backgrounds: keep the space tidy. Blank walls are best if possible
- Find a quiet space (or time) to record without competing “noise”
- Arrange adequate lighting, either behind the camera or in front of you, but not behind you
- Make a few test recordings to check through all of the above; make adjustments as necessary until you are satisfied.
- Treat this as if you were playing a live performance: dress professionally, smile, and enjoy playing.
- Be yourself and present your best work!

Best case scenarios:

1. Plan to spend a good amount of time to determine the best set up. Be patient but plan ahead. It's often helpful to literally map everything out, take notes about where you place equipment and stands, and record the next day (or two).
2. Allow several days to record so you know you have options to choose your best recordings.
3. Record often as a practice tool so you become accustomed to recording and listening to your playing.
4. Plan for the unexpected: avoid waiting until the last minute, which adds greater pressure

Remember: I am excited to hear YOU play!

[-Dr. Francesca Arnone](#) | [Fact page for studying flute at USF](#) with links