



The Musician's Application

The following is intended as a guide for seniors who have focused on music during their time at BB&N. Those who have done so are strongly advised to create a CD and a short document outlining their past musical achievements at BB&N and elsewhere. Creating this CD and résumé will showcase your musical abilities and may help to set you apart from many other applicants. The Common Application has created an arts supplement for students. This can be done online or on paper. Some schools accept the arts supplement and others do not. Please check the individual school websites to see whether or not they accept the arts supplement. Some schools may require that students create a personal website to display their work.

C D F O R M A T

1. Colleges differ in what they require for a musical CD. **If you intend to major in music, many colleges, universities, or conservatories will require an audition. Please check carefully about each school's audition procedure.** In many cases, auditions take place in February or early March. These are done either at the school or at regional sessions in major cities. The earlier you register, the better, because spaces will fill up quickly.
2. The recording should be made with the highest quality equipment available, and in the best possible acoustical surroundings. The possibilities may vary according to the instrument or the voice, so ask Mr. Horning or Mr. Reasoner if you are unsure. You must never, however, “enhance” your voice or instrument electronically. To do so is to misrepresent your talent. If you are unable to record yourself, ask a professional to do so. A badly recorded CD is worse than none at all.
3. Choose your pieces wisely, always paying attention to the institution's guidelines. Play or sing selections that will show your talent in the best light. Highlight your strengths. Choose a variety of pieces to demonstrate different abilities. Pieces from different

historical periods or pieces with differing tempi, dynamics, and articulations are good choices.

4. Do not make the recording too long. Leave them wanting more. If a piece has three movements, you may want to record only one and then add an additional piece contrasting in a style. You may, in fact, be penalized for recording more than the school asks for!
4. Send the recording to both the college admission office and to the appropriate member of that school's music department. Remember that in many cases, in addition to selecting a school, you are selecting a teacher. If you are a string player, send the tape or CD to the school's orchestra director or head of the string faculty; if a vocalist, to the choral director, etc. Enclose a letter and the résumé outlining your past musical achievements. Follow up with a phone call sometime later to that same music faculty member.

R É S U M É F O R M A T

1. With your recording, enclose a résumé. List your important musical achievements, especially in your secondary school years. These may include work both at and outside of BB&N.
2. List any awards, competitions, and/or titles that you may have earned. List teachers with whom you have studied and pieces that you have played or sung.
3. Sometimes it may be a good idea to include programs or reviews of your work.
4. Keep your information brief. Highlights of your accomplishments are enough.

Along the way, if you need help with any aspect of this process, feel free to ask a member of the music department. They are more than ready to help you.