Higher Ed Interview Questions (Performance/Teaching)

1) As a performer, why do you like to teach?
2) What skills have you acquired from your work experience? Give examples.
3) What have you learned from your experiences outside the classroom or workplace?
4) What is your teaching philosophy/philosophy of education?
5) What is your philosophy of grading?
6) What will it take to attain your goals, and what steps have you taken toward attaining them?
7) What do you think it takes to be successful in this career?
8) How do you determine or evaluate success? Give an example of one of your successful accomplishments.
9) Where do you want to be in five years?
10) Who inspired you as a musician?
11) What strengths do you feel you might bring to a faculty such as ours?
12) What sorts of things have you done to become better qualified for your career?
13) Why do you want to come to this school? To this community?
14) How would you prepare your performance majors for a career in music?
15) Why is this the right opportunity for you at this time in your career?
16) Why do you think _____ is a good fit for you?
17) How do you determine priorities in scheduling your time? Give examples.
18) What do you regard as the essentials of a beautiful tone on your instrument?
19) Is it important that our students be able to sight-read at a high level? If so, why?
20) What important attributes of effective teaching do you possess that your students could emulate in their own teaching careers?
21) What are your views on these common catch-phrases: “we teach the way we were taught” and “we teach the way we were taught to teach” – and how would you present and discuss these ideas in an informal conversation with a group of students?
22) Describe several attributes of a successful studio teacher. (Use various books that you have read and personal experiences to add to your arguments).
23) What are some of the ways that the studio teacher and interact with the ensemble directors to benefit and enhance the overall music program?
24) When you have been made aware of, or have discovered for yourself, a problem in your school or work performance, what was your course of action?
25) Some people consider themselves to be “big picture people” and others are detail oriented. Which are you? Give an example that illustrates your preference.
26) How would you evaluate your ability to deal with conflict?
27) Besides your primary skill (playing and teaching your instrument), what other professional strengths (other teaching/administrative) can you bring to your position?
28) Name some of the study material (not including solos) that you use when teaching students.
29) Outline a possible recital program for an advanced college senior.
30) Name 5-10 outstanding contemporary compositions for the (your instrument) (written in the last 20 years).
31) In addition to having your students be better musicians, how would you like them to have changed because they had you as a teacher?
32) If you were to give a recital your first year, what would the repertoire be and why?
33) Why would students in the ____ area come to study with you versus other teachers in the same area?
34) What are some of the ways you can become well known in the (your instrument/field) world?
35) What are your comments on the state of music today in American society? How does higher education fit into this? Are we doing a good job?
36) What would you consider your teaching strengths? Weaknesses?
37) What do you think of our curriculum? Do you feel there are some courses which could be added to greater fulfill our mission statement? What would they be?
38) What might be some other skills you could bring to our program?
39) What is the one experience you think has best prepared you for this position?
40) What is your view on the training of young musicians? What skills should they have? How would you help them? How does diversity fit into this?
41) Do you have any previous recruiting experience? How would you go about recruiting in the regional ____ area? Nationally? Internationally?
42) Describe some of the extended (instrument) techniques you would teach to your undergraduate students.
43) What other areas of study might you be able to assist in teaching?
44) Why should we hire you?
45) Do you have any questions for me?

Source: Eastman School of Music Professors