

careers

MY ANTI-UNEMPLOYMENT

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

INSTITUTE FOR MUSIC LEADERSHIP



EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

Careers and Professional Development