

## LearningLAB: Audition preparation program for entrance exams at conservatoire level 2023/2024

### Calendar:

September 2023: Send an email to all final year students to check participation and to see if they need any help looking for institutes or teachers in the network of conservatoires

October/ November: Create personal overviews of application deadlines, video audition deadlines, live audition dates. Look at planning for lunch concerts to try out repertoire and see if there are more options for studies in The Netherlands and abroad

January: 3 sessions with video and sound recording

January-March: Lunch concert participation

February: 3 sessions audition preparation

March: Trial audition with committee

Participants: 2 jazz singers, 1 jazz saxophone, 1 viola, 1 french horn, 1 drummer

Not all participants used all options of the program. The classical students didn't need to upload video auditions. One of the students took an extra year to prepare on the entrance exams. They all participated in the trial auditions and formed each other's committee.

**Creating a personal overview:** 1 participant.

Deadlines, repertoire and preparation plan.

For some of the students creating an overview together is helpful, there is a lot of information and deadlines are deadlines.

We explore choices and create a broader horizon when necessary.

We created a year planner with deadlines, the preparation process and concerts and trial auditions with repertoire and we reflect on how it is going.

**Video recordings:** jazz students needed video recordings of their first audition round.

Topics: Planning, booking a studio, being prepared, use technique (video camera, recording device), presentation in clean studio

Students thought they were going to be able to record in 1 session but this was unrealistic. They need 1 session to reflect on (presentation and musical performance) and after this at least 2 to get a take that is good enough to send to a committee.

They had enough **try-outs** of their repertoire in the lunch concerts. These were filmed so they could reflect on them with their instrumental teacher.

**Audition preparation:** affirmation, visualization, observing and reflecting together and individually in morning hours.

The difference between concerts and auditions was not clear. Auditions need special preparation; the students need to be aware of the differences between the two and need to learn what they can expect. They feel more uncomfortable with an audition, and they tend to evade the situation instead of working on it and getting used to it.

**Trial audition with committee, recording, bachelor exam sheets and reflection:**

All students practiced trial auditions, with bachelor exam sheets and got the opportunity to be in a committee and play.

Using the bachelor exam sheet was very helpful for students, as they learn what a committee focusses on. Also the reflection afterwards was helpful and being at the other side of the table listening to a peer gave them new perspectives on what is important.

All students got admitted in the institute of their choice.