

# AUDITIONING FOR AN ORCHESTRAL POSITION

A COMMON TRAP TO FALL INTO is presenting your concerto movement on a technically higher level than the orchestral excerpts. The excerpts matching the concerto, however, will immediately show the members of the panel your respect for the orchestral profession and how seriously you take it.

Study the excerpts carefully and pay attention to detail. Plan the use of the bow well so that you feel and sound free. To the panel you will appear at ease. If you play too softly in the loud passages, they will know that your contribution to the section will be insignificant. If you play too loudly in soft passages, they will know that you will stick out and make the section sound unbalanced. If you slow down or in any other way display a poor rhythmical sense, they know the section will not sound together. If you play détaché when it says spiccato, then they will know that the passage will sound inarticulate. Whether the members of the panel make these mistakes, themselves, in a rehearsal or concert is irrelevant: the panel is untouchable and they decide your future, so be clever about the time spent in their presence.

How you enter the room and how you face the panel for the first time are very important. They want a person who is intelligent and attentive – and friendly, of course, since they are looking at a potential colleague with whom they will spend a lot of their time. Dress nicely, but do not over-dress: why let them think you are on your way to a wedding? Enter, and scan the people on the panel by looking them in the eye. Communicate the strength of your personality by the way you greet them but remember that too much self-confidence may come across as threatening to those with little. A smile will relax everyone. There is no rush. Everyone in the room is aware that this is your moment and that you have the right to make yourself comfortable.

Then lift your bow and let your talent fly.

Mats Lidström

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mats Lidström', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.