

Youth Orchestra Audition Requirements



Pioneer Valley Symphony
Building community through music since 1939

- **String Players (Violin, Viola, Cello & Double Bass)**

All string players should be able to demonstrate knowledge of shifting, legato, and ability to play off the string.

String players should prepare:

1. One major & one minor scale (two octaves)
2. One major arpeggio (two octaves)
3. A solo, or excerpt from a solo, of your choice
4. Be prepared to sight read a short excerpt

Cello Players: Should know, or be willing to learn, tenor clef

Viola Players: Should know, or be willing to learn, treble clef.

- **Woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon)**

Woodwind players should prepare:

1. Three scales (2 major, 1 minor).
2. A solo of your choice.
3. Be prepared to sight read a short excerpt

If you play an auxilliary instrument (piccolo, bass clarinet, contrabassoon, saxophone), please let us know at the audition.

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- **Brass (Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba)**
 1. Two scales (major or minor, two octaves).
 2. Solo of your choice.
 3. Be prepared to sight read a short excerpt
- **Percussion (Timpani, Snare Drum, Cymbals, Bass Drum, Xylophone)**

The PVSYO utilizes all standard percussion orchestral instruments: timpani, snare drum, cymbals, bass drum and xylophone. We also occasionally use drum set.

Percussionists may audition for one specific percussion instrument, but knowledge of multiple instruments is desirable and preferred. Please consult with your teacher and/or ensemble director to select the best piece for your audition. If you have any questions regarding percussion auditions, please contact us at youth@pvso.org. At the audition we will have a snare drum and a xylophone. You may bring your own if you wish. Percussionists should bring their own mallets, but we will have some available.

All percussion candidates should pick a solo piece of their choice on either a mallet keyboard instrument or snare drum showing your best abilities. Sight reading will also be given on that particular instrument.

If **mallets** are chosen as your audition instrument, you should also prepare:

2 octave major, minor and chromatic scales. Arpeggios are optional.

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- **Harp**

Harpists should have access to or own a full range orchestral harp as required by repertoire. PVS will not be able to supply a harp.

1. One solo work of your choice.
2. One standard orchestral excerpt prepared (consult with your teacher).
3. Be prepared to sight read an orchestral excerpt.

- **Piano/Keyboard**

PVSYO is auditioning orchestral pianists at this time, but pianists must be aware that the repertoire during the season may not always call for orchestral piano. Other performance opportunities may include playing other keyboard instruments such as celeste, xylophone, or glockenspiel.

1. Standard scales and arpeggios in all the major and minor keys.
2. Solo selection of your choice.
3. Be prepared to sight read an orchestral piano/keyboard excerpt