



Youth Orchestra Audition Requirements

In addition to the below, all musicians should expect to sightread a short excerpt.

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.

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.

If you play an auxiliary instrument such as piccolo, bass clarinet, contrabassoon, or saxophone, please let us know at the audition.

Brass (Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba)

Brass players should prepare:

- 1) Two scales – major or minor, two octaves.
- 2) Solo of your choice.

Harp

Harpists should have access to or own a full range orchestral harp as required by repertoire.

PVSYO will not be able to supply a harp. Harpists should prepare:

- 1) One solo work of your choice.
- 2) One standard orchestral excerpt prepared (consult with your teacher).

Percussion

The PVSYO is auditioning all standard percussion 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 do not hesitate to contact us at youth@pvso.org. At the audition we will have timpani, snare drum, bass drum, crash cymbals and xylophone. Percussionists should bring their own mallets, but we may have some available.

All percussion candidates should pick a solo piece of their choice on either a mallet instrument, snare drum, or timpani, showing your best abilities. Percussionists will be asked to perform the following:

Snare Drum: Rudimental roll, orchestral roll, flams & paradiddles.

Cymbal: Crashes, varying dynamics & tempos.

Mallet Instrument: 2-octave major, minor, and chromatic scales. Arpeggios are optional.

Timpani: Long Roll, ppp to fff. Interval tuning to 4ths, 5ths and 3rds.

Piano/Keyboard

The PVSYO is currently auditioning orchestral pianists, but pianists should be aware that orchestral music only infrequently calls for piano (about 10% of the time). Consequently, the PVSYO most often uses pianists for auxiliary keyboard and percussion parts, such as xylophone, glockenspiel, cymbals, bass drum, etc. Pianists willing and interested in contributing in this way are encouraged to audition. *Two introductory percussion lessons will be provided.* NB: Membership in the PVSYO also allows for the opportunity to participate in our chamber music groups, which allow for significant piano parts. For auditions, pianists should prepare:

- 1) Standard scales and arpeggios in all the major and minor keys.
- 2) Solo selection of your choice.

Upcoming Auditions:

Saturday and Sunday, June 15th-16th, 12:00-2:00pm

Wednesday, June 19th, 6:00-8:00pm

- All auditions are held at Artspace Community Arts Center, 15 Mill Street, Greenfield.
- To arrange an audition, please contact us at youth@pvso.org.
- Auditions are open by appointment to all students ages 18 and under.
- The audition fee is \$20 (cash or check only), which is applied to the PVSYO tuition when a student is accepted.

Please be sure to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your audition time in order to have your instrument ready, tuned and warmed up. In addition to providing the opportunity for us to get to know you, please know that auditions are also a time for you to get to know us, so feel free to ask us any questions you might have!