



NJSYO

Audition Requirements
and
Program Information

ORCHESTRAS

Preparatory String Orchestra

Katie Gussman, Conductor

The Preparatory String Orchestra (PSO) is oriented toward students who are just beginning their musical training. It is open to string players in the second grade and above. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at the Middletown Arts Center, Middletown, NJ.

Concert Youth Orchestra

Leo Soeda, Conductor

The Concert Youth Orchestra (CYO) is open to string, woodwind, and brass players in the fifth grade and above. The orchestra is designed to expose students to the symphonic repertoire, and to hone skills in orchestral playing. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at the Middletown Arts Center, Middletown, NJ.

Senior Youth Orchestra

Roy D. Gussman, Conductor

The Senior Youth Orchestra (SYO) is open to string players in the ninth grade and above. The SYO performs the full symphonic repertoire, and provides advanced orchestral experience for young musicians. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at the Middletown Arts Center, Middletown, NJ.

Chamber Music Ensemble

Leo Soeda, Coach

The Chamber Music Ensemble gives advanced students the unique experience of playing in a small group with more individual responsibility. Students learn to play together using cues and focused listening while being mentored by Mr. Soeda. Past Chamber Ensemble performances have included, community outreach concerts, collaboration with Rockit of the Count Basie Theater, and other small venue opportunities. Rehearsals are on Saturday afternoons at the Middletown Arts Center, Middletown, NJ.

AUDITION INFORMATION

All students wishing to join the NJSYO must audition. Auditions may include any combination of the following: (a) scales, (b) a solo piece demonstrating the student's ability level, and (c) sight reading. The requirements for scales are listed below according to instrument.

Preparatory String Orchestra

Basic Skills

- Students must be in the second grade or higher in September.
- Completion of a method book such as *Essential Elements for Strings*, *Strictly Strings etc.*
- Ability to count in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time.

Scales

VIOLIN: 2 octaves: G,A 1 octave: B flat, C, D, F
VIOLA: 1 octave: B flat, C, D, F, G
CELLO: 1 octave: B flat, C, D, F, G
BASS: 1 octave: G

*Violinists will be expected to play one 2 octave scale and one 1 octave scale listed above. All other instruments will be expected to play two 1 octave scales.

Solo Piece

Solo piece must be an actual solo for your instrument, not an orchestra part. Solo should demonstrate the student's ability. Examples include Bach Minuets, 1, 2, and 3, solos found at the end of Suzuki Book 1 and solos in the beginning of Suzuki Book 2.

Sight Reading

Sight reading will be provided and will be part of an orchestra piece similar to those that will be played at this level.

Concert Youth Orchestra

Violins

Scales- Choose one major and one minor from the following:

- 3 octaves: G major, A minor
- 2 octaves: A, B flat, C, D, E flat, F major
G, B, C, D, E minor
- 1 octave: F sharp minor

Solo- Two short contrasting pieces (one fast, one slow). Solo pieces should be of difficulty comparable to Vivaldi's A minor Concerto, first movement.

Violas and Cellos

Scales- Choose one major and one minor from the following:

- 3 octaves: C major
- 2 octaves: D, E flat, E, F, G, A flat, A, B flat major
C, D, E, G, A, B, F sharp minor

Solo- Two short contrasting pieces (one fast, one slow). Solo pieces should be of difficulty comparable to Bourree from Bach's third suite (BWV 1009).

Bass

Scales- Two scales of your choice (one major, one minor), both 2 octaves.-

Solo- Two short contrasting solo pieces (one fast, one slow) that best demonstrates your ability.

Percussion

Demonstration of the knowledge of and ability to perform various rhythmic patterns. You will be graded on rhythmic stability, good sound, and dynamic contrasts.

Winds/Brass

Scales- Two scales of your choice (one major, one minor), both 2 octaves.

Solo- Two short contrasting pieces (one fast, one slow) that best demonstrates your ability.

Senior Youth Orchestra

Violin

Scales- 3 octaves: G, A, A flat, B flat, C
 2 octaves: D, E flat, E, F

Solo piece should be of difficulty comparable to Handel Sonata in F major or Suzuki Book 6.

Viola

Scales- 3 octaves: C, D, E flat, E, F
 2 octaves: G, A flat, A, B flat

Solo piece should be of difficulty comparable to Telemann Concerto.

Cello

Scales- 3 octaves: C, D, E flat, E, F
 2 octaves: G, A flat, A, B flat

Solo piece should be of difficulty comparable to Tchaikovsky Chanson Trieste or Brevel Sonata.

Bass

Scales- 2 octaves: E, F, G, A flat, A, B flat, C, D

Winds, Brass, Percussion

Major scales shall be played in complete octaves. Diatonic scales for all instruments are six sharps and six flats, and shall be played in the pattern of a quarter note followed by six eighth notes. Chromatic scales shall be played in complete octaves within the range of the instrument. Scales should be played either slurred or tongued as indicated by the judges.

Percussionists shall perform separate technical requirements in lieu of scale requirements.

A solo piece demonstrating the student's ability will be played.