

2024-2025 Audition Standards

WIND, BRASS, and PERCUSSION MUSICIANS



We welcome you to audition for the Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestras!

The most important aspect of your NMYO audition is that you present your best playing.

Audition pieces should be works the student knows well and that showcase their range of technical abilities and musicianship. We expect all NMYO members to be actively studying their instrument with a private teacher. Your teacher should help you choose appropriate repertoire and prepare you for the audition.

All wind, brass and percussion musicians are heard for placement in NMYO's Wind Ensemble. Depending upon the musician's level and seats available, they are also considered for placement in the Intermezzo or Symphony Orchestras. Musicians placed in an Orchestra also play in the Wind Ensemble at no additional cost. Flute musicians can also choose to be considered for a spot in one of NMYO's Flute Choirs.

Placement in an ensemble is based on the musician's skill level and not their age or grade. When you register for your audition time, you are asked to select the ensemble in which you would like to be placed. However, we will evaluate your audition and place you in the best ensemble for your level so that you can be a successful NMYO musician.

The audition for Wind, Brass, and Percussion musicians consists of the following:

Solo Piece – Memorization not required

- Play a piece, two- to four-minutes in length, equivalent to one of the District levels (Jr., Sr., All State) that demonstrates your best playing and includes contrasting sections
 - Flutists: If you would like to be considered for piccolo, you should also prepare a short piccolo excerpt
 - Percussionists: You can prepare selections on one or more instruments (timpani, snare, mallets, piano)

Scales from Memory – Choose one major and one chromatic scale as follows

- Wind Ensemble, Intermezzo Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra
 - One major scale up to 4 sharps and 4 flats and the chromatic scale from your lowest range to your highest range
 - Tempos: Wind Ensemble 84 bpm, Intermezzo 84-96 bpm, Symphony 92-104 bpm
- Flute Choirs
 - Select Flute Choir - One two-octave major scale up to 4 sharps and 4 flats (three octaves for C Major) and the three-octave chromatic scale from your lowest to highest range
 - Flute Choir - One two-octave Major scale up to 3 sharps and 3 flats and the chromatic scale from your lowest to highest range
- Percussionists
 - To be considered for Symphony Orchestra, prepare two two-octave Major scales on mallets

Harmonic Exercise - for Select Flute Choir consideration only

- After playing the scales, flutists wishing to be considered for Select Flute Choir should play an exercise or excerpt demonstrating familiarity with harmonics

Sight Reading

- Sight reading at an appropriate level will be used to determine the musician's note reading ability

A note to returning NMYO musicians: Each NMYO ensemble provides a supportive environment to develop musicianship, ensemble skills, and leadership potential. Often, musicians spend more than one season in their orchestra. Once ready to move up, it is highly unusual for a musician to skip a level. We encourage you to speak with your conductor for guidance on your upcoming audition.