

2019-2020 Audition Requirements



ALL MUSICIANS:

All NMYO students are to be actively taking lessons with a private teacher.

The most important aspect of your NMYO audition is that you present your best playing and select works that you (in consultation with your private teacher) have prepared in advance of your audition. Audition pieces should be works the student knows well and that demonstrate his/her range of technical abilities and musicianship. Your private teacher can help determine and prepare appropriate pieces for the audition.

Below are the scale and other requirements for each of the NMYO ensembles.

STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

All NMYO students are to be actively taking lessons with a private teacher.

Auditions will include scales, a piece or two of your choosing, and sight-reading at an appropriate level. Bring in one or two pieces of contrasting styles that show the highest level of the musician's proficiency; pieces should show the ability to play in several positions. For string musicians, the minimum entry level piece is equivalent to Suzuki Book 5 or the Bach a minor Concerto.

Audition adjudicators will be listening for the following:

1. Ability to demonstrate a practical range on a given instrument which includes mature tone quality, accurate intonation, and good posture
2. Ability to tune your instrument
3. Ability to count and play several rhythms accurately
4. Ability to demonstrate good sight-reading ability

Skill Level for Symphony Strings:

1. Ability to play at a minimum level equivalent to the middle of Suzuki Book 5 or the Bach a minor Concerto.
2. Violinists: Ability to shift and play in fifth position and beyond.

Strings Scale Requirements (Major and minor): Scales should be memorized. Scale rhythmic pattern is a quarter note followed by eighth notes pattern at 92-104 bpm.

- **Violin:**
Three-octave major scales C, D, D flat, G, A, A flat, B, B flat, E flat
All other major scales are two octaves (E and F)
Melodic minor scales – a, e, b d, g – two octaves
- **Viola and Cello:**
Three-octave major scales C, D, D flat, G, E, E flat, F
All other major scales are two octaves
Melodic minor scales – a, c, e, f, d – two octaves
- **Double Bass:**
All two-octave major scales
Melodic minor scales – a, e, b, d, g – two octaves

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STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA

All NMYO students are to be actively taking lessons with a private teacher.

Auditions will include scales, a piece of your choosing, and sight-reading at an appropriate level. The Intermezzo Orchestra's string musician level is the end of Book 3 through Book 5.

Audition adjudicators will be listening for the following:

1. Ability to recognize and count basic rhythms
2. Ability to play with good tone, accurate intonation, and good posture
3. Ability to sight-read a simple piece

Skill Level for Intermezzo Strings:

1. Ability to play at a minimum level equivalent to the end of Suzuki Book 3
1. Some ability to shift to and play in third position
2. Ability to play with good position, good bow hold
3. Ability to note read all notes in first position for all strings
4. Ability to tune one's instrument with minimal assistance
5. In order to maintain good posture essential to good playing, some kind of shoulder pad (any thickness) must be used by all violinists and violists while playing in orchestra

Strings Scale Requirements: Scales should be memorized. Scale rhythmic pattern is a quarter note followed by eighth notes pattern at 84-96 bpm. String players should demonstrate the ability to play two octave scales in tune in the following keys.

- **Violin:** two octaves C, G, D, A, F, B flat, E flat
- **Viola:** two octaves C, G, D, A, F, B flat, E flat
- **Cello:** two octaves C, G, D, A, F, B flat, E flat
- **Double Bass:** two octaves C, D, A, G, F; one octave B flat, E flat

STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR OVERTURE STRING ENSEMBLE

All NMYO students are to be actively taking lessons with a private teacher.

Auditions will include scales, a piece of your choosing, and sight-reading at an appropriate level. The skill level for Overture is the end of Suzuki Book 2 through Book 3.

Scale Requirements:

- **Violin:** two octaves A, B flat, C, D, G
- **Viola/Cello:** two octaves C, D, E flat, and F; one octave A, B flat, G
- **Bass:** one-octave scale of B flat, C, F and G

STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR PRELUDE STRING ENSEMBLE

All NMYO students are to be actively taking lessons with a private teacher.

Auditions will include scales, a piece of your choosing, and sight-reading at an appropriate level. The skill level for Prelude is the end of Suzuki Book 1 through Book 2.

Scale Requirements:

- **Violin:** two octaves A, G; one octave C, D
- **Viola/Cello:** two-octave scale of C; one-octave scale of D, F, G
- **Bass:** one-octave scale of B flat, F, and G

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WINDS, BRASS & PERCUSSION MUSICIANS

All NMYO students are to be actively taking lessons with a private teacher.

All wind, brass and percussion musicians will be heard for placement in NMYO's Wind Ensemble. Depending upon the musician's level and seats available, the musician will also be considered for placement in Intermezzo Orchestra or Symphony Orchestra. Musicians placed in an Orchestra also play in the Wind Ensemble at no additional cost. Flute musicians can also be considered for a spot in one of NMYO's Flute Choirs [see following page for specific audition requirements to be placed in a Flute Choir].

Auditions include scales, sight-reading at an appropriate level, and a piece of your choosing from the MMEA Northeastern District repertoire lists or equivalent and should show contrasting styles.

Symphony Orchestra Wind & Brass Scale Requirements:

Scales should be memorized. Scale rhythmic pattern is a quarter note followed by eighth notes pattern at 92-104 bpm. Winds and Brass should prepare ALL MAJOR scales. The chromatic scale requirements are as follows:

- **Flute:** C-C three octaves
- **Oboe:** C-C two octaves
- **Bassoon:** Bb-F two and one-half octaves
- **Clarinet:** F-F three octaves
- **Bass Clarinet:** E-G two plus octaves
- **French Horn:** G-G two octaves
- **Trumpet:** C-C two octaves
- **Trombone:** F-G two plus octaves
- **Tuba:** F-F two octaves
- **Saxophone (Alto, Tenor, Baritone):** low B flat to high E
- **Brass players** must have professional mouthpieces

Intermezzo Orchestra/Wind Ensemble Winds & Brass Scale Requirements:

- Scale rhythmic pattern is a quarter note followed by eighth notes pattern at 84-96 bpm
- Ability to play memorized scales, in tune, in the following keys (up to 3 flats and 3 sharps): A, B flat, C, D, E flat, F, G

Percussion Requirements: Players auditioning must demonstrate skill on a range of instruments as follows:

Snare: Understanding of basic rudiments. Solo selection from MMEA Northeastern District audition lists or selection of equivalent difficulty

Accessories: Ability to demonstrate proper playing technique on bass drum, crash cymbals, suspended cymbal, and small percussion accessories such as triangle, wood block, etc.

Mallets: Experience preferred but not required. To be considered for Symphony, the musician should demonstrate knowledge of all major scales, two octaves

Timpani: Understanding and ability to tune timpani. Solo selection should be from MMEA Northeastern District lists or equivalent

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FLUTE CHOIRS

All NMYO students are to be actively taking lessons with a private teacher.

NMYO aims to challenge each student within the Flute Choir setting, and expects all students to be relatively accomplished on their instrument and studying with a private teacher. Our goal is to spend rehearsals exploring a variety of musical styles and rehearsal techniques without having to spend time teaching individual parts. We are looking for flutists who can demonstrate the ability to come to rehearsals well-prepared and ready to be a positive member of their Flute Choir team.

Flute Choirs meet on Sundays in the late afternoon/early evening. Members of a Flute Choir can also play in one of the Orchestras and Wind Ensemble which meet on Mondays. All flutists auditioning will be considered for all ensembles, but we ask you to indicate a preference on your audition registration form.

Each Flute Choir must have a minimum of eight enrolled musicians or the Choir will be cancelled and audition/enrollment fees will be refunded. Audition requirements for each Flute Choir ensemble are as follows:

Select Flute Choir - Geared toward elite high school flutists.

- All Major scales up to 6 sharps & 6 flats, 2 octaves (3 octaves for C Major)
- One harmonic minor scale of your choice
- Chromatic scale, 3 octaves
- Two contrasting solo pieces or movements similar in level to Senior District/All-State, one of which must be from the 20th or 21st century. Chosen repertoire should demonstrate a variety of articulations, dynamic contrast, technical agility, flexible embouchure, and accurate pitch. Examples of appropriate composers include but are not limited to: Chaminade, Hindemith, Faure, Martinu, Bach, & Mozart
- An exercise or excerpt demonstrating familiarity with harmonics
- Sight reading at an appropriate level

Flute Choir - Geared toward high school players. Exceptional younger students may also be accepted.

- All Major scales up to 3 sharps and 3 flats, 2 octaves
- Chromatic scale, 3 octaves
- Two contrasting solo pieces or movements similar in level to Junior/Senior District. Chosen repertoire must demonstrate slow and fast tempos with clear articulation, dynamic contrast, and tone/pitch control. Examples of appropriate composers include but are not limited to: Telemann, Handel, Godard, Marcello, Faure, & Gaubert
- Sight reading at an appropriate level

Junior Flute Choir - Geared toward intermediate players in grades five through eight.

- Two scales of your choice
- Two contrasting pieces or movements demonstrating a variety of rhythms, tonguing and slurring, dynamic contrast, and clear tone
- Sight reading at an appropriate level