

2022-2023 Audition Requirements



OVERVIEW FOR ALL MUSICIANS:

Thank you for your interest in the Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestras!

NMYO Audition Day is Saturday, June 11, 2022 at Ipswich High School, 134 High St, Ipswich, MA. Register for an audition time at www.nmyo/auditions. An audition fee of \$25 for musicians new to NMYO and \$15 for returning musicians is collected at the time of your audition.

Musicians new to NMYO, as well as all returning musicians, must audition. Those with a conflict on June 11 must notify the NMYO office at auditions@nmyo.org and schedule an alternate date. Note that those who audition late are at a disadvantage when it comes to seating availability.

The most important aspect of your NMYO audition is that you present your best playing and select works that you have prepared in advance. Audition pieces should be works the student knows well and that demonstrate his/her 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.

Auditions include scales, a piece or two of your choosing, and sight-reading at an appropriate level. Below are the scale and repertoire requirements for each NMYO ensemble. Placement in an ensemble is based on skill level and not the age and/or grade of the musician. 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.

STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Scales from Memory for Violins, Violas, Cellos

- One three-octave major scale up to four sharps and four flats.
- One three-octave melodic minor scale up to four sharps and four flats.

Scales from Memory for Bass

- One two-octave major scale up to four sharps and four flats.
- One two-octave melodic minor scale up to four sharps and four flats.

Scales from Memory for Harp

- One two-octave major scale up to four sharps and four flats.
- One harmonic minor scale up to four sharps and four flats.
- One arpeggio, either C, F or G Major.

Solo Piece (Sheet Music Acceptable)

- Play a piece or two equivalent to the Sr. District or All-State level that demonstrates your best playing and your ability to play in several positions. Your selection(s) should be a total of 3 to 5 minutes in length and *include contrasting sections*. Harpists can also play a cadenza if they wish.

Skill Level

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

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STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA

Scales from Memory

- Two two-octave scales that demonstrate shifting up to four sharps and four flats.

Solo Piece (Sheet Music Acceptable)

- Violinists, Violists and Cellists: Play one piece that is equivalent to a Jr. District level piece, or a piece from the end of Suzuki Book 3 or Book 4 or above, which demonstrates your best playing. The piece should be between 2 to 4 minutes in length.
- Bassists: Play one piece equivalent to a Jr. District level piece, or a piece from the end of Suzuki Book 2 or Book 3, which demonstrates your best playing. The piece should be between 2 to 4 minutes in length.

Skill Level

- Ability to play at a minimum level equivalent to the end of Suzuki Book 3 (Violins, Violas, Cellos)
- Ability to play at a minimum level equivalent to the end of Suzuki Book 2 (Bass)
- Violinists: Ability to read, shift, and play in third position

STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR OVERTURE STRING ENSEMBLE

Scales from Memory

- Violins: Two two-octave scales; you should have memorized A, Bb, G, C Major
- Violas & Cellos: Two two-octave scales; you should have memorized C, D, Eb, F Major
- Bass: Two one-octave scales; you should have memorized C, D, G Major

Solo Piece (Sheet Music Acceptable)

- Violinists, Violists and Cellists: Play one piece from the end of Suzuki Book 2 through Book 3 or equivalent, which demonstrates your best playing. The piece should be from 2 to 4 minutes in length.
- Bassists: Play one piece from the beginning of Suzuki Book 2 or Book 3, which demonstrates your best playing. The piece should be from 2 to 4 minutes in length.

Skill Level

- Ability to play at a minimum level equivalent to the end of Suzuki Book 2 (Violins, Violas, Cellos)
- Ability to play at a minimum level equivalent to the beginning of Suzuki Book 2 (Bass)
- Experience with and comfortable reading music

STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR PRELUDE STRING ENSEMBLE

Scales from Memory

- Violins: Two-octave G Major scale; One-octave D Major scale
- Violas & Cellos: Two-octave C Major scale; One-octave D Major scale
- Bass: One-octave C Major scale

Solo Piece (Sheet Music Acceptable)

- Play one piece from the end of Suzuki Book 1 through Book 2 or equivalent, which demonstrates your best playing. The piece should be from 2 to 4 minutes in length.

Skill Level

- Ability to play at a minimum level equivalent to the end of Suzuki Book 1 through Book 2
- Some exposure to note recognition and rhythmic patterns

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WINDS, BRASS & PERCUSSION MUSICIANS

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 choose to be considered for a spot in one of NMYO's Flute Choirs.

Scales from Memory

- One major scale up to 4 sharps and 4 flats
- Chromatic scale from your lowest range to your highest range

Harmonic Exercise (for Select Flute Choir consideration) (Sheet Music Acceptable)

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

Solo Piece (Sheet Music Acceptable)

- Winds & Brass: Play a piece equivalent to the District level (Jr., Sr., All State) that demonstrates your best playing. Your submission should be 2 to 4 minutes in length and include contrasting sections. Flutists wishing to be considered for piccolo, should also play a short piccolo excerpt.
- Percussion: Play a piece equivalent to the District level (Jr., Sr., All State) that demonstrates your best playing on any percussion instrument including piano. Your submission should be 2 to 4 minutes in length and include contrasting sections.

Skill Level

- Symphony Orchestra: Scales at 92-104 bpm; percussionists must be able to play all two-octave major scales on mallets
- Intermezzo Orchestra: Scales at 84-96 bpm; percussionists must be able to understand and tune timpani
- Wind Ensemble: Scales at a minimum of 84 bpm
- Select Flute Choir: Major scales up to 6 sharps and 6 flats, 2 octaves (3 octaves for C Major); 3-octave chromatic scales
- Flute Choir: All Major two-octave scales up to 3 sharps and 3 flats