

2021-2022 Audition Requirements



OVERVIEW FOR ALL MUSICIANS:

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

Video auditions for musicians new to NMYO, and for current members who wish to move up to the next ensemble level, will open on April 15, 2021 and are accepted on a rolling basis. Current NMYO members who wish to remain in the same ensemble as they are in this year do not have to submit a video audition.

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. Your private teacher can help determine and prepare appropriate pieces for the audition.

We expect all NMYO members to be actively studying their instrument with a private teacher. We realize, however, that many teachers are unable to give lessons at this time due to the pandemic. If you have questions about your audition repertoire and preparation, an NMYO conductor can be of assistance. Email auditions@nmyo.org and we will put you in touch with the appropriate conductor who can advise you on your choice of scale(s) and repertoire.

Below are the video audition 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. Although you are asked to select the ensemble in which you would like to be placed, we will evaluate your audition and place you in the best ensemble for your level so that you can be a successful NMYO musician.

Note: Also read the last page for information regarding in-person seat auditions!

STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Scales from Memory for Violins, Violas, Cellos

- One three-octave major scale; choose from scales up to four sharps and four flats.
- One three-octave melodic minor scale; choose from scales up to four sharps and four flats.

Scales from Memory for Bass

- One two-octave major scale; choose from scales up to four sharps and four flats.
- One two-octave melodic minor scale; choose from scales up to four sharps and four flats.

Scales from Memory for Harp

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

Solo Piece (Sheet Music Acceptable)

- Play a piece equivalent to the District or All-State level that demonstrates your best playing and your ability to play in several positions. Your submission should be 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 shift and play in fifth position and beyond.

2021-2022 Audition Requirements

STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR INTERMEZZO ORCHESTRA

Scales from Memory

- Two two-octave scales that demonstrate shifting

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 a 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 shift and play in third position

STRING MUSICIANS AUDITIONING FOR OVERTURE STRING ENSEMBLE

Scales from Memory

- Violins: Two two-octave scales; choose from A, Bb, G, C Major
- Violas & Cellos: Two two-octave scales; choose from C, D, Eb, F Major
- Bass: Two one-octave scales; choose from 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 a 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)

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



2021-2022 Audition Requirements

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. If you do not have access to percussion equipment at home, you can submit a snare solo with drum sticks and a practice pad or drum-substitute. Be creative!

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

SEAT AUDITIONS FOR INTERMEZZO, SYMPHONY & WIND ENSEMBLE MUSICIANS

Upon acceptance and registration into one of these three ensembles, all Intermezzo, Symphony and Wind Ensemble musicians will perform a seating/section audition at the beginning of the fall 2021 season. Once your registration is received, you will be emailed an audition excerpt to play for the seat audition. We expect the seat audition to take place in-person during the first Monday rehearsal day.