

2024-2025 Audition Standards

PRELUDE and OVERTURE STRING 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.

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 Overture Ensemble string musicians consists of the following:

Solo Piece – Memorization not required

- Violinists, Violists and Cellists: Play one piece, two- to four-minutes in length, from the end of Suzuki Book 2 through Book 3 or equivalent
- Bassists: Play one piece, two- to four-minutes in length, from the beginning of Suzuki Book 2 or Book 3

Scales from Memory – Choose two of the following

- Violins: Two-octave scales C, G, A, Bb Major
- Violas & Cellos: Two-octave scales C, G, D, Eb Major
- Bass: Two one-octave scales C, G, D Major

Sight Reading and Skill Level

- Sight reading at an appropriate level to demonstrate recognition of symbols, note values, and pitches as they appear in music notation and to evaluate the musician's experience reading music
- 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)

The audition for Prelude Ensemble string musicians consists of the following:

Solo Piece – Memorization not required

- Play one piece, two- to four-minutes in length, from the end of Suzuki Book 1 through Book 2 or equivalent

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

Sight Reading and Skill Level

- Sight reading will only be used to evaluate the musician's exposure to note recognition and rhythmic patterns
- Ability to play at a minimum level equivalent to the end of Suzuki Book 1 through Book 2

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.