

2024-2025 Audition Standards

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 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 Symphony Orchestra string musicians consists of the following:

Solo Piece – Memorization not required

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

Scales from Memory

- Violins – Choose one major and one melodic minor scale from the following
 - Three-octave major scales: C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, E, A, D, and G
 - Three-octave melodic minor scales: a, d, g, c, f, b, and e
- Violas/Cellos – Choose one major and one melodic minor scale from the following
 - Three-octave major scales: C, F, Bb, Eb, E, A, D, G
 - Three-octave melodic minor scales: d, g, c, f, e
- Bass – Choose one major and one melodic minor from the following
 - Two-octave major scales: C, F, Eb, E, D, G
 - Two-octave melodic minor scales: d, g, c, f, e
- Harp – Choose one major, one harmonic minor, and one arpeggio from the following
 - Two-octave major scales up to four sharps and four flats
 - Harmonic minor scales up to four sharps and four flats
 - One arpeggio, either C, F or G Major

Sight Reading and Skill Level

- Sight reading at an appropriate level to evaluate the musician's note reading 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

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.