



Mid-Season Audition Requirements

CONTENTS

Step 1: Apply

[Apply for SYSO](#)

Step 2: Review & prepare audition requirements

[String](#) audition requirements

[Woodwinds & Brass](#) audition requirements

[Percussion](#) Audition requirements

[Recording instructions](#)

[Recording your audition](#)

Step 3: Complete your audition/application

[Submission instructions](#)

[Audition rubric](#)

APPLY FOR SYSO

Please contact orchestra@syso.org, sharing your instrument, age, and number of years playing. Before we accept an application, we want to make sure we have an opening in your instrument. If so, we'll send you a link to submit an application.

Once you have officially applied for the program, you can follow the audition instructions below:

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

STRINGS AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Scales

J = 60-80 bpm

- 1a. Two octave (minimum) major scale, eighth notes/minimum 4 slurred
- 1b. Corresponding major arpeggios, triplet eighth notes/minimum 3 slurred
- 2a. Two octave (minimum) octave melodic minor scale, eighth notes/detaché
- 2b. Corresponding minor arpeggio, triplet eighth notes/detaché

Solo Piece

With your solo performance, we are looking for two things:

- 1. To hear a lyrical passage
- 2. To hear a technical passage

You can choose to play 1 piece that contains both lyrical and technical passages. Or you can choose to play 2 pieces, one that has a lyrical style and one that is more technical.

Duration of your solo performance should not exceed 3 minutes in length. Skip any long rests.

WOODWINDS/BRASS AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Scales

J = 60-80 bpm

- 1. Two octave (minimum) major scale, eighth notes, slurred
- 2. Two octave (minimum) melodic minor scale, eighth notes, tongued
- 3. *Brass only:* Chromatic scale to demonstrate your performing range

Solo Piece

With your solo performance, we are looking for two things:

To hear a lyrical passage
To hear a technical passage

You can choose to play 1 piece that contains both lyrical and technical passages. Or you can choose to play 2 pieces, one that has a lyrical style and one that is more technical.

Duration of your solo performance should not exceed more than 3 minutes in length. Skip any long rests

PERCUSSION

If you do not have access to instruments at home, please check with your school teacher or private teacher. If these options are not available to you, please email izchel.chacon@syso.org to arrange rehearsal opportunities.

Solo Piece

1. Solo piece/etude of your choice for snare drum
2. Snare drum roll for 10 to 15 seconds
3. Solo piece/etude of your choice for a keyboard instrument
4. Two octave (minimum) octave scale on any mallet instrument of your choice
5. *Optional: Solo piece/etude of your choice for timpani or multi-percussion set*

Due the time transitioning between all percussion instruments, as an exception, the video may be in multiple takes

If you do not play one of the instruments listed above, please contact izchel.chacon@syso.org. We can discuss a plan for your audition!

RECORDING INSTRUCTIONS

VIDEOS MUST BE TAKEN IN A SINGLE TAKE. YOU CANNOT EDIT THE DIFFERENT VIDEO COMPONENTS TOGETHER, OR YOUR VIDEO WILL NOT BE ADJUDICATED.

**with the exception of percussionists*

VIDEO QUALITY

- Film in a well-lit space. Make sure there is more light in front of you rather than behind you so that you are not back-lit.
- Using your smartphone to record your audition is great. You don't need professional equipment. Feel free to use whichever video orientation makes sense for your instrument and room setup (horizontal or vertical videos). We want to be able to see as much of you and your instrument as possible.
- When shooting, place the camera on a tripod or flat surface to keep the camera from shaking.
- Frame yourself adequately. The video should show you and your entire instrument, as well as the range of motion associated with playing your instrument.
- Ensure your music stand is not blocking you.
- Memorization is not required and will not factor into your scoring.
- Put your phone/tablet in airplane mode to avoid disruptions.
- Video must remain stationary: no panning, zooming, multiple cameras, fading in/out.

AUDIO QUALITY

- Find a quiet spot at home.
- Be mindful of your instrument's loudest volume, the size of the room, and test your room's acoustics.
- Woodwind and brass musicians should not point your bell directly at the mic but slightly off-center.

- Check sound levels beforehand to make sure sound is not distorted in loud passages and inaudible in soft passages.
- String instruments: make sure the face of your instrument is directed towards the video recording device so we can see both your left-hand and your bow arm technique.

OTHER TIPS

- Be mindful that your voice will be at a lower volume than your instrument when speaking. Speak a little slower, loudly and confidently.
- Dress comfortably and nicely, as you would for a job interview.
- We recommend only allowing yourself 3 play-throughs and selecting your favorite video. Select the video that best represents your playing.

RECORDING YOUR AUDITION

- Tune your instrument to A=440
- Your video should not exceed 5 minutes in length
- Audition videos must be shot in **one continuous take***, as it best simulates a live audition. Include all of the requirements for your instrument in the order they are listed. The required audition order and suggested timings are as follows:
 - ~40 seconds: Scales and arpeggios
 - ~3 minutes: Solo Piece(s) or Excerpts
 - ~2 seconds: Say "Thank you" at the end of the audition video.
- **You may not edit, cut, splice, or otherwise alter your performance**

**with the exception of percussionists*

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

[CLICK HERE for submission instructions](#). Once you've uploaded your shareable video to Youtube, search your inbox for the video submission email (please check your spam folder, too). If you did not receive an email, check your inbox one more time, then contact info@syso.org.

NEW! Please write the names of your scales and solo piece(s) in the youtube video description box.

THE AUDITION RUBRIC

SYSO adjudicators consist of esteemed coaching faculty and conductors. Coach adjudicators will provide qualitative feedback and provide orchestra recommendations to conductors, and conductors will average out their quantitative results, taking the coach adjudicators feedback highly into consideration when assigning students to the different orchestras. The audition rubric consists of the following elements: **intonation, rhythm, musicianship, tone, technique, and sight-reading ability.**