Toronto Pops Orchestra 2026 - 2027 Audition Requirements (for strings, woodwinds, brass)

Audition Overview:

- Prepare a total of **three excerpts total** and **one short solo piece**. At least one must be from the standard repertoire section and one must be from TPO's past repertoire section. The third excerpt can be from either section. For those doubling an instrument (i.e piccolo, english horn) prepare an additional excerpt listed below for your instrument from either standard repertoire or TPO's past repertoire (if available).
- **Total time should be approximately 5-8 minutes of music.**
- **You may be stopped in the middle of an excerpt/solo due to time constraints**
- Excerpts should be chosen to be contrasting for better standing in the audition.
- Bar numbers are inclusive, rehearsal numbers/letters are based on barlines

➔ Arrow mark indicates ONE excerpt

1. Orchestra Excerpt from Existing Repertoire - At least one
    a. Additional resources can be found here: https://orchestraexcerpts.com
        i. This includes music and recordings for practice (some excerpts listed do not feature recordings but are readily available online)
2. Excerpts from TPO Repertoire - At least one
    a. Link to sheet music: TPO Excerpts
3. One Solo Piece
    a. Can be done with or without piano accompaniment

Orchestral Excerpts by Instrument:

Violin

Standard Rep (Prepare Violin 1 part unless otherwise specified):

➔ Brahms: Symphony No. 4, Op. 98 Mvt. IV (mm 169-199)
➔ Mendelssohn Symphony 4 ("Italian") Op. 90 mvt. I (Beginning – m.110)
➔ Mozart: Overture to The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflote) K 620 (mm. 20-59)
➔ Tchaikovsky: Symphony 4, Op. 36 mvt 1 (H-L)
➔ Strauss: Don Juan Op. 20 (Beginning - reh. C)

TPO Rep (Prepare Violin 1 part unless otherwise specified):

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ Mvt. I (mm. 1 - 15) AND
  - ◆ Mvt 2. (mm. 97 - 110)
- ➔ Hisashi/arr. Gilmore: Princess Mononoke Ver. 2
  - ◆ Mm. 9 - Reh. B
- ➔ Loewe/arr. He: I Could Have Danced All Night
  - ◆ mm. 36 - 57

Viola

Standard Rep (for divisi play top line):

- ➔ Bartok: Concerto for Orchestra, mvt. IV (mm. 42-60)
- ➔ Berlioz: Roman Carnival Overture (m. 36-66)
- ➔ Brahms: Symphony No. 4, Op. 98 Mvt. II (mm. 64-80)
- ➔ Mendelssohn: Midsummer Night's Dream, Op. 61 Scherzo (m.17 - reh. D)
- ➔ Strauss: Don Juan, Op. 20 (Beginning - Reh. C)

TPO Rep:

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ Mvt. I (mm. 1 - 15) AND
  - ◆ Mvt 2. (mm. 97 - 114)
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Right Place at the Wrong Time
  - ◆ Mm. 69-87
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Taking Flight
  - ◆ Mm. 60-78

Cello

Standard Rep (play top line for divisi):

- ➔ Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, Op. 67 Mvt III (mm141- mm218)
- ➔ Brahms: Symphony 4, Op. 98 Mvt IV (Reh B-D)
- ➔ Rossini: William Tell Overture (Beginning - mm. 48) - Cello 1 part
- ➔ Strauss: Ein Heldenleben Op. 40 (mm 1 - 49)
- ➔ Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6, Op. 74 Mvt. II (mm. 1-25)

TPO Rep:

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Payaba (play cello solo line then tutti line)
  - ◆ mm. 61-reh I
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Ad Astra (play top line)
  - ◆ Reh. F- reh. I
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Taking Flight
  - ◆ mm. 54-78

Double Bass

Standard Rep (play top line in any divisi. part):

- ➔ Beethoven Symphony no. 9 - 4th movement (pick up to mm. 9 - 90) (start pickup to bar 9, presto to allegro assai before A)
- ➔ Brahms: Symphony 2, Op. 73 mvt. IV (Beginning until 6m after B)
- ➔ Mozart: Symphony no. 39 - 1st movement - (m. 40 - reh. C)
- ➔ Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition, mvt VI (Samuel Goldenburg and Schmuyle)
- ➔ Strauss: Ein Heldenleben Op. 40- reh. 9 - 6 bars after reh. 12

TPO Rep:

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind (Pick any 2 from this piece, counts as one excerpt)
  - ◆ Mvt. I mm. 46-74
  - ◆ Mvt. I mm. 204-232
  - ◆ Mvt. II mm. 74 - 89
  - ◆ Mvt. II mm. 98 - 113
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Emily's Bouquet of Spring
  - ◆ mm. 182-end
- ➔ Loewe/arr. He: I Could Have Danced All Night
  - ◆ mm. 53-74

Rhythm Section/Electric Bass:

- ➔ **Rhythm Section Upright Bass/Bass Guitar:** Prepare two tunes, one swing and one latin: 3 choruses (at least one with walking bass, at least one with soloing, optional head melody). With either a rhythm section or pre-recorded accompaniment. Electric bass can also do this as well.
- ➔ Add one extra song/excerpt with rhythm section or pre-recorded accompaniment that can demonstrate your skills in bossa, funk, or pop.

Harp

Standard Rep (play first harp part):

- ➔ Berlioz: Symphonie fantastique, “Un bal” (beginning to reh. 23)
- ➔ Britten: Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra (Var. I AND Var. J)
- ➔ Ravel: Tzigane (Reh. 4 - Reh. 5)
- ➔ Tchaikovsky: Nutcracker Suite (No. 4 scene including harp cadenza)

TPO Rep:

- ➔ Dr.Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ Mvt. II mm. 84 - 105
- ➔ Dr.Chen: Ad Astra
  - ◆ One measure before reh. L to reh. N

Flute

Standard Rep (Prepare First Flute Part):

- ➔ Beethoven Symphony No. 3, Op. 55 mvt IV (171-200)
- ➔ Debussy: Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun (Beginning - Reh 3)
- ➔ Mendelssohn: A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Op. 61 Scherzo (2 before [P] until End)
- ➔ Saint Saens: Carnival of the Animals (Voliere)
- ➔ Stravinsky: Firebird Suite (1919), Firebird Variation (mm. 1- 43)

For Piccolo:

- ➔ Beethoven: Symphony No. 9, Op. 125 Mvt. IV: (mm. 343-431)

TPO Rep (Prepare First Flute Part):

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Forever an Enigma
  - ◆ mm. 99-111 OR
  - ◆ Mm. 41-55
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Ad Astra
  - ◆ mm. 128 - mm. 164

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ mvt 1: mm. 149-156 AND
  - ◆ Mvt. 1 mm. 101- 112 OR mvt. 3 mm. 169-182

Clarinet

Note: Play it to concert pitch. Watch for transposing instruments that are listed in the excerpts. If you have any concerns, let us know.

Standard Rep (Prepare First Clarinet Part):

- ➔ Beethoven: Symphony No. 8, Op. 93 Mvt. III (Trio) (mm. 48-78)
- ➔ Mendelssohn: Midsummer Night's Dream Op. 61 Scherzo (mm. 1- 48)
- ➔ Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio Espagnol, Op. 34 Mvt. III (reh. K - end)
- ➔ Rachmaninov: Symphony No. 2, Op. 27 Mvt. III (mm. 6-27)
- ➔ Sibelius: Symphony No. 1, Op 39 Mvt. I (mm. 1-32)

For Bass Clarinet:

- ➔ Meyerbeer: Les Hueguenots Act V Trio (mm. 1-11)

TPO Rep (Prepare first clarinet part):

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind Mvt II
  - ◆ Mm. 80-114 OR
  - ◆ Mm. 6 - 17
- ➔ Osamu/ arr. Huang: Disco Kid
  - ◆ Mm. 42 (Reh 8) -62 (Reh 12)
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Forever An Enigma
  - ◆ Pick up to mm. 5 -19

Oboe

Standard Rep (Prepare First Oboe Part):

- ➔ Brahms: Symphony No. 1, Mvt. II (mm. 17-24 AND mm. 38-44)
- ➔ Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3 "Scottish" (mm. 32-67 OR mm. 83-100)
- ➔ Ravel: Tombeau de Couperin, Mvt. I (Beginning –reh. 2 AND reh. 8 to reh. 9)
- ➔ Strauss: Don Juan, Reh. L - 2nd measure Reh. N

For English Horn:

- ➔ Berlioz: Roman Carnival Overture (14 measures before [1] to 3 measures after [1])

TPO Rep:

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Forever an Enigma (Both Oboe and English Horn)
  - ◆ Mm 88 - 98 AND
  - ◆ Pick up to mm. 22 - 36

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Forever an Enigma (Both Oboe and English Horn)
  - ◆ mm. 99-111

Bassoon

Standard Rep (Prepare First Bassoon Part):

- ➔ Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique, Mvt V (mm. 47 - 64)
- ➔ Mozart: Overture to Marriage of Figaro (opening - mm. 58)
- ➔ Ravel: Bolero (reh. 2 - reh. 3)
- ➔ Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring (Beginning to 2 measures before [4])

TPO Rep (Prepare First Bassoon Part):

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ Mvt I: Mm. 155-170 AND
  - ◆ Mvt. I: Mm. 220-229

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ Mvt II Mm. 97-110 AND
  - ◆ Mvt. III 145-189

Saxophone (Alto, Tenor)

Standard Rep:

You may audition for more than one type of saxophone.
If auditioning Soprano, pick a solo piece to demonstrate your skills on Soprano Sax

- ➔ Bernstein: Symphonic Dances from West Side Story (mm. 17- mm. 34) OR (mm. 400- mm. 448) (Both Alto and Tenor Sax)
- ➔ Milhaud: La création du monde (one measure before reh. 46 - one measure after reh. 51) (alto sax)
- ➔ Vaughan Williams: Symphony no. 6, Mvt. II (mm. 3 - 74) (tenor sax)

TPO Rep (Choose the one you would be auditioning with):

- ➔ Hisashi/arr. Huang: My Neighbor Totoro (Both Alto or Tenor Sax)
  - ◆ Reh. J to end
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Ad Astra
  - ◆ Mm. 62 - reh. H (Alto sax)
  - ◆ Reh J - mm. 116 (Tenor Sax)
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Forever an Enigma (Both Alto of Tenor Sax)

- Mm 88 - 98 AND
- Pick up to mm. 22 - 36

French Horn

Standard Rep (Let us know if you have preference for high or low horn during audition):

- Beethoven: Symphony No. 7 Op 92 Mvt. I (either 1st or 2nd horn)
  - Mm. 84-103
- Brahms: Symphony No. 1 Op 68 Mvt. II (either 1st or 2nd horn)
  - Pickups to [E] to 1 measure after [F]
- Mahler: Symphony No. 1 Mvt III (either 1st or 2nd horn)
  - Reh. 13- reh. 15
- Strauss: Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche Op 28 (1st horn)
  - Mm. 6-20
- Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5, Mvt II (1st horn)
  - mm. 8-28

TPO Rep:

All horn 1 parts except when marked otherwise.

Exposed horn solo:

- Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - Mvt I: Mm. 91-101 AND Mm. 116-125 (1st Horn) OR
  - Mvt I: Mm. 1-10 AND Mm. 91-101 (2nd Horn)
- Dr. Chen: Ad Astra (both 1st and 2nd Horn)
  - Mm. 76-85 AND
  - Mm. 149-163

Pick 2 from following excerpts to count as one excerpt:

- Zimmerman/arr. Gilmore and Parlatan: Pirates of the Patient Court V2
  - Mm. 54-mm. 72
- Call/arr. Huang: Selections from Frieren Beyond the Journey's End
  - Mm. 1- mm. 4
- Sato/arr. MVH: Godzilla
  - Mm. 1- mm. 6

Trumpet

Note: Watch for transposing instruments that are listed in the excerpts. If you have any concerns, let us know.

Standard Rep (Prepare Trumpet 1 Part):

- ➔ Debussy: Fêtes from Nocturnes (9 measures after reh. 10 - reh. 11)
- ➔ Mahler: Symphony No. 5 Mvt. I (beginning - mm. 26)
- ➔ Schumann: Symphony No. 2, Op. 61 Mvt. I (Beginning - mm. 14)
- ➔ Strauss: Don Juan, Op. 20 (4 measures after reh. F - 3 measures before reh. G)
- ➔ Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4, Op. 36 Mvt. I (mm. 7- reh. A)

TPO Rep (Prepare Trumpet 1 Part):

All in Bb trumpet

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ Mvt. II mm. 98 - mm. 107 AND
  - ◆ Mvt. III mm. 283 - mm. 298
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Hey There
  - ◆ One measure before reh. F - reh. H
- ➔ Loewe/arr. He: I Could Have Danced All Night (can also play trumpet 2 part)
  - ◆ Reh. C - mm. 72
- ➔ Hisashi/arr. Som: Laputa Castle in the Sky
  - ◆ Mm. 45- mm. 52 AND
  - ◆ Mm. 60 - 68

Trombone

Standard Rep (Prepare Trombone 1 Part):

- ➔ Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphosis, Mvt. II (reh. H to reh. J)
- ➔ Mozart: Requiem, Tuba Mirum (Beginning - reh. A)
- ➔ Ravel: Bolero, (reh.10 - reh. 11)
- ➔ Rossini: William Tell Overture, (Reh C. - Reh. D)
- ➔ Wagner: Overture to Tannhäuser (1 measure before [M] - end)

For Optional Bass Trombone (Select from this standard rep instead of former selections):

- ➔ Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphosis, Mvt. II (reh. H to reh. J)
- ➔ Rossini: William Tell Overture, (Reh C. - Reh. D)
- ➔ Wagner: Overture to Tannhäuser (1 measure before [M] - end)

TPO Rep (Prepare Trombone 1 Part, unless otherwise stated):

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ Mvt II Mm. 82 - mm 90 AND
  - ◆ Mvt II Mm. 98- mm. 110
- ➔ Zimmerman/arr. Gilmore and Parlatan: Pirates of the Patient Court V2
  - ◆ Mm. 11 - mm. 27 AND
  - ◆ Mm. 55 - mm. 72
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Forever an Enigma
  - ◆ Mm. 84 - mm. 110 (Trombone 1 or Trombone 2)

Tuba

Standard Rep (Prepare 1st Tuba Part):

- ➔ Bruckner: Symphony no. 7, Mvt. IV (reh. P to S)
- ➔ Prokofiev: Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2 (reh. 2- reh. 6)
- ➔ Strauss: Ein Heldenleben (reh. 62 - reh. 65)
- ➔ Wagner: Der Meistersinger von Nurnberg, Overture (mm. 158-189)

TPO Rep:

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ Mvt I Mm. 92-101 AND
  - ◆ Mvt II Mm. 36-42

- ➔ Dr. Chen: Through the Mountains of Mind
  - ◆ Mvt II Mm. 98-111
- ➔ Dr. Chen: Emily's Bouquet of Spring
  - ◆ mm. 182-end

Piano (Keyboard/Synth) Audition Requirements

For piano or keyboard/synth, prepare two excerpts from contrasting pieces that are at least RCM Grade 10 (no need to memorize) that would add up to 4-6 minutes. Having experience comping or playing in jazz settings as well as playing in a large ensemble are highly preferred skills.

https://www.rcmusic.com/learning/examinations/academic-resources-and-policies/syllabi-and-syllabi-errata

In addition, you can also substitute one of the pieces by performing all three TPO excerpts below.

Otherwise, prepare at least one TPO excerpt as follows:

- Dr.Chen: Ad Astra
  - Mm. 64 - reh. G OR One measure before reh. L - reh. N
- Dr.Chen: Right Place, At the Wrong Time
  - Pick up to Mm. 70 - end
- Dr.Chen: Taking Flight
  - Reh. E - Reh. G

Additional Requirements for Doubling Positions:

- **Rhythm Section Piano (optional, only for consideration to be in featured rhythm section with orchestra for some concerts):** Prepare two tunes, one swing and one latin: 3 choruses (one with head melody, one comping, one solo) with pre-recorded rhythm section or accompaniment.
  - Note for all instruments, jazz standard must be 32 bar form. If it's 16 bars, it would be assumed that repeating the form twice would count as one chorus.

- **Keyboard/Synthesizer (optional, only for consideration on keyboard/synth position not piano):** Demonstrate competency in synthesizer use and synthesizer sound creation through performance of any short piece/excerpt with your choice of synthesizer to be brought physically to audition (either analog, digital, or emulated on computer).

Percussion Audition Requirements

- ➔ Formal percussion auditions will be done through open rehearsal during the first full orchestra rehearsal
- ➔ Please send any relevant video/audio samples of your playing in orchestral percussion, timpani, mallet percussion, and other cultural percussion settings that we can use to determine if your performance level passes pre-screening before invitation to open rehearsal

- ➔ **Rhythm Section Drum kit (optional, may need to show up for additional in-person audition after successful open rehearsal audition)**: Prepare two tunes, one swing and one latin: 3 choruses and demonstrate a variety of drumming skills. One chorus for drum solo. With pre-recorded accompaniment
- ➔ Add one extra song/excerpt with rhythm section or pre-recorded accompaniment that can demonstrate your skills in bossa, funk, or pop.