



Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra 2024-2025 Audition Guidelines

Auditions will be held on June 4, 6 & 8, 2024. Candidates will be greeted upon arrival at auditions and escorted to a warm-up area. Parents are not permitted in the audition area. All candidates will be notified by e-mail regarding acceptance into a WCYO ensemble following auditions.

A musician will be placed in an ensemble – Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, or Wind Ensemble – following their audition based on musical ability and relative skill level, with consideration for age/grade in school.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

1) SCALES

Below are general guidelines for scales. Please prepare scales that reflect your current level and ability. Play the scales at the tempo and in a rhythm you are used to practicing them. You may select your first scale and the conductor at the audition will select the second scale. Note that the conductor is listening for well performed scales above more advanced scales.

Strings

- Less experienced players: two octave scales, up to two sharps and flats, major and minor (Harmonic or Melodic)
- More experienced players: three octave scales, up to four sharps and flats, major and minor (Harmonic or Melodic)

Woodwinds and Brass

- Less experienced players: one octave scales up to two sharps and flats, major and minor
- More experienced players: two octave scales (where applicable), up to four sharps and flats, major and minor

2) AUDITION REPERTOIRE - *please bring a copy of your music to your audition*

Strings, Woodwinds and Brass

- Please prepare two contrasting pieces for your audition. Your selections can be pieces or movements from the standard solo repertoire, etudes, Suzuki or other method books, etc.
- You will be asked to play about five minutes of the repertoire total, but please prepare your entire selections.

Percussion

- Timpani: One piece from the standard repertoire for the timpani.
- Snare Drum: One piece from the standard repertoire for the snare drum (etudes acceptable). Be prepared to play a closed and/or open roll on the snare drum at various dynamics.
- Mallets (optional): Two contrasting works. Etudes, orchestral excerpts, and solo works are acceptable.

Harp:

- Two contrasting pieces or movements from the standard solo repertoire.

3) SIGHT READING

As part of your audition, you will be asked to sight read a short excerpt.

WINDS & BRASS ONLY!

There will be a Jazz component to your experience in the WCYO. While prior experience performing Jazz is not required for participation in the WCYO, if you do have experience playing Jazz we would like to hear what you can do! Please see below the guidelines for an optional Jazz portion of your audition.

Jazz Portion of the Audition

- For less experienced Jazz players: one octave of Bb blues scale and play one blues head of choosing (ie. Blue Monk (Bb), Sonnymoon For Two (Bb), Now's the Time (F))
- For more experienced Jazz players: one octave of Bb and F blues scales, play one blues head of choosing (as listed above), take two improvised choruses along with accompaniment provided, and perform an etude from books such as Jazz Conception (Niehaus), Charlie Parker Omnibook, etc.

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR AUDITION PIECES

- *Choose pieces you enjoy playing! It is important that you like playing the music that you choose to perform. We want you to be excited to perform your music for us!*
- *Choose selections that show a variety of styles and techniques. Not every piece can show everything, so try to pick selections that have a variety of styles, tempi, techniques, etc.*
- *Choose pieces that are a good representation of your current skill and musicianship. Try to pick pieces that are somewhat challenging for you (technically/musically), but that you can play well.*

We do not expect perfection for auditions. Auditions are simply a means to get to know you and your playing. Please let us know if you have questions about the audition requirements. You can email us as at wcyo@wctyo.org