



## Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra 2026-27 Audition Guidelines

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 email as to whether they are accepted into the Symphony Orchestra following their audition and based on musical ability and relative skill level.

### AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

#### SCALES

Below are general guidelines for scales. Please prepare scales that reflect your current level and ability. It is expected that you will be able to play major and minor (harmonic OR melodic) scales up to four sharps and four flats, in at least one octave. Play the scales at the tempo and in a rhythm you are used to practicing them. You will be asked to play up to three scales, the first of which you may choose. Note that the conductor is listening for well performed scales above more advanced scales.

#### 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 selection.

##### 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.

**SIGHT READING** - As part of your audition, you will be asked to sight read a short excerpt

## **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\*\*](mailto:wcyo@wctyo.org)