

Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra 2023-2024 Audition Guidelines

Auditions in August and early September. 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 of acceptance into a WCYO ensemble following auditions.

First a few primary considerations for choosing your audition piece(s):

- Do you enjoy playing the piece? The most important thing to think about is if you like playing the piece. We want you to be excited to perform your music for us!
- Does it show a variety of styles and techniques? Not every piece can show everything, but try to pick a piece that has a variety of styles, tempi, techniques etc., that can give us a broad idea of your playing. If one piece doesn't seem to accomplish that, think about playing two shorter pieces, or two movements from a multi-movement work instead.
- Is it a good representation of your current skill and musicianship? Try to pick a piece that is somewhat challenging for you (technically and/or musically), but that you know you can play very well.

NOTE: We do not expect perfection for auditions. It is simply a means to get to know you and your playing!

The following are the audition requirements for each WCYO ensemble:

STRING ORCHESTRA

Candidate must bring a copy of the piece they are playing for the adjudicator to follow.

- Candidates choice of any 2 of the following scales played in 2 or 3 octaves: C Major, F Major, G Major, A Major, a melodic minor, Bb Major
- Any solo work at difficulty level of Suzuki Book No. 3 and up
- Sight reading

WIND ENSEMBLE

Candidate must bring a copy of the piece they are playing for the adjudicator to follow.

- Memorized Concert F Chromatic scale - ascending and descending, 2 octave scale where possible, but 1 is acceptable. Minimum tempo eighth notes at quarter note=60bpm
- Concert Bb, Eb, Ab, F major scales ascending and descending, memorized, 2 octaves where possible, minimum tempo eighth notes at quarter note=60bpm.
- The Wind Ensemble is expanding its repertoire to include jazz. Although jazz experience is not required at this point, we ask that you memorize the following blues head to play along with an accompaniment we will provide (improvisation encouraged but not required): Blue Monk - [Link to sheet music](#). [Link to play-along track](#).
- Candidate's choice of 1 or 2 solo pieces at the level of a middle school or high school Western Regional piece or All-State selections. Parts from selections being played in school groups are not recommended for audition pieces.
- Sight readings (one jazz, one wind band)

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Candidate must bring a copy of the piece they are playing for the adjudicator to follow.

Strings:

- 1 or 2 pieces from the standard repertoire (movements from concerti, solo works, etudes etc.)
- 3 octave major and melodic minor scales and arpeggios up to 4 flats and sharps (double bass players need only play 2 octaves)
- Sight reading

Woodwinds and Brass:

- 1 or 2 pieces from the standard repertoire (movements from concerti, solo works, etudes etc.)
- Sight reading
- Scales (see below)

Flute/Piccolo

2 octave major and melodic minor scales up to 4 flats and sharps, 3 octaves where possible

Oboe/English Horn

2 octave major and melodic minor scales up to 4 flats and sharps, and 2 octave chromatic scales beginning on low Bb

Clarinet & Bassoon

2 octave major scales up to 4 flats and sharps, 3 octaves where possible

2 octave melodic minor scales up to 4 flats and sharps, 3 octaves where possible

French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone & Tuba

2 octave major scales up to 4 flats and sharps, where possible, 1 octave when not

2 octave melodic minor scales up to 4 flats and sharps, where possible, 1 octave when not

Percussion:

- 1 piece from the standard repertoire for the timpani. Bring a copy of your music..
- 1 piece from the standard repertoire for the snare drum (etudes acceptable). Bring a copy of your music.
- Be prepared to play a closed and/or open roll on the snare drum at various dynamics
- Sight reading
- Mallets (optional): 2 contrasting works. Etudes, orchestral excerpts, and solo works are acceptable. Bring a copy of your music.

Harp:

- 2 contrasting movements from the standard solo repertoire. Bring a copy of your music.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the audition requirements. We are here to serve youth musicians and support your music journey. Please email us as needed at wcyo@wctyo.org