



Audition Information

2022-2023 Season

Symphony Orchestra

STRINGS & KEYBOARD

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Piano, and Harp

The ISYO Symphony Orchestra (SO) is a full orchestra composed of strings, winds, percussion, piano, and harp. Members will perform a diverse cross-section of orchestral repertoire. SO members are encouraged to take private lessons and expected to spend time practicing their instrument daily. Ensemble skills, advanced musicianship, and artistic fun will be the priorities of this ensemble and will encourage artistic expression through a variety of performance opportunities.

AUDITION PROCESS

Students can sign up for auditions online on the Illinois Symphony Orchestra website, ilsymphony.org. The sign-up link can be found under the Education & Community tab by selecting Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras.

Each student should rehearse the requested audition requirements (see below) and arrive early to warm-up on the day of their audition. Students will be directed to the audition room at their scheduled audition time.

Students should bring their instrument and 3 copies of their solo audition music. Students may come into the building with or without a parent/guardian, per the family's discretion. Please note that ISYO is not able to supervise students outside of the audition room. Only the student will enter the audition room, and a parent/guardian may wait outside the room.

A music stand will have sight-reading examples on them and should not be touched until instructed. The student will be invited to play a few notes to adjust to the space and get comfortable. The student will be asked to play two or three major scales. If a required scale is listed (below), this will be performed first. The second and third scales will be selected from the requirements list. Winds will then play a chromatic scale, thereafter.

After scales, the student will play their prepared solos. A student may choose to prepare one or two solos or portions of solos they believe best represent their musical skill at this time, for a total audition solo time of approximately 1.5 minutes. If you need help securing music, please contact Jake Woollen at jwoollen@ilsymphony.org.

After solos, the student will play a sight-reading piece(s) provided by the judges. Once the audition is completed, the student will exit the audition room, reunite with their parent/guardian (if applicable), and exit the building.

AUDITION PREPARATION

Lessons: If possible, seek assistance from a private lesson teacher. A private lesson teacher can help you with the audition requirements, as well as give you valuable advice on how to perform well for your audition. ISYO encourages musicians to take private lessons in addition to participating in ISYO programs. ISYO is happy to provide a list of community teachers upon request.

Practicing & Tempo: Use a metronome when practicing your solos and scales. Good internal pulse is crucial to playing in a large ensemble. You can find free metronomes online through any search engine. There are free or inexpensive apps such as Metronome Beats and Pro Metronome, as well as online resources like Metronomus and Metronomeonline.com. Perform scales at the tempo indicated (below). Practice slowly with a metronome at first. After several slow repetitions, start to play faster, each with several repetitions: 1/2 tempo, 3/4 tempo, then full tempo. Practice at speeds slower and faster than the tempo indicated. For help in sight-reading, use <https://www.sightreadingfactory.com/>. You can practice 18 free exercises per device or purchase a subscription.

Intonation: Listen carefully to your tuning/intonation while practicing. Practice with a tuner. If you do not have one yet, a tuner is an essential tool in becoming a better performer. Tuners can be purchased or there are free or inexpensive apps like Tuner Lite, as well as websites that can be found through simply searching "online free tuner."

Musicianship: Be careful to observe accents, dynamics, accidentals, written instructions and other musical aspects notated on the music.

STRING SOLO OPTIONS

VIOLIN	<p>https://orchestraexcerpts.com/violin/ https://aimsgraz.com/audition/orchestra-required-repertoire/ https://ilmea.org/d1-orchestra-auditions Any solos you have been working on will be fine.</p>
VIOLA	<p>https://orchestraexcerpts.com/viola/ https://aimsgraz.com/audition/orchestra-required-repertoire/ https://ilmea.org/d1-orchestra-auditions Any solos you have been working on will be fine.</p>
CELLO	<p>https://orchestraexcerpts.com/cello/ https://aimsgraz.com/audition/orchestra-required-repertoire/ https://ilmea.org/d1-orchestra-auditions Any solos you have been working on will be fine.</p>
BASS	<p>https://orchestraexcerpts.com/doublebass/ https://aimsgraz.com/audition/orchestra-required-repertoire/ https://ilmea.org/d1-orchestra-auditions Any solos you have been working on will be fine.</p>

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, & BASS

SCALES (from memory):

- All major scales up to five sharps and flats – 2 octaves minimum, 3 octaves preferred/required for specific scales (see below).
 - Violin: 3 octave G scale required.
 - Viola: 3 octave C scale required.
 - Cello: 3 octave C scale required.
 - Bass: 2 octave G scale required.
- 1 quarter note per pitch, at approx. quarter note = 120 bpm.

SOLOS:

- Play two solos or excerpts, each approximately 40-45 seconds and contrasting in styles.
 - You may be asked to stop before you have finished, but this is purely to ensure auditions stay on time.
 - For repertoire options, see a list of options above.

SIGHT-READING:

- You will have 30 seconds to look over the sight-reading example(s) and then 30 seconds to perform it to the best of your ability.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

PIANO

SCALES (from memory):

- All major scales up to five sharps and flats, 2 octaves only and with both hands simultaneously at approximately quarter note = 120 bpm

SOLOS:

- Play two solos or excerpts, each approximately 40-45 seconds and contrasting in styles. Any solos you work on in private lessons will be fine.
 - You may be asked to stop before you have finished, but this is purely to ensure auditions stay on time.

SIGHT-READING:

- You will have 30 seconds to look over the sight-reading example(s) and then 30 seconds to perform it to the best of your ability.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

HARP

SCALES (from memory):

- All major scales up to five sharps and flats – 2 octaves only at approximately quarter note = 120 bpm.

SOLOS:

- Play two solos or excerpts, each approximately 40-45 seconds and contrasting in styles. Any solos you work on in private lessons will be fine.
 - You may be asked to stop before you have finished, but this is purely to ensure auditions stay on time.

SIGHT-READING:

- You will have 30 seconds to look over the sight-reading example(s) and then 30 seconds to perform it to the best of your ability.