Audition Information

2020-2021 Season

Preparatory Orchestra

STRINGS
Violin, Viola, Cello, & Bass
The ISYO Preparatory Orchestra (PO) is a string orchestra for musicians who have mastered all the skills presented in Sound Innovations for String Orchestra: Book 1 or Essential Elements for Strings: Book 1. PO (Preparatory Orchestra) members are encouraged to take private lessons and expected to spend time practicing their instrument on a daily basis. Ensemble skills will be developed, in addition to proper string technique through a level 2 method book and high quality repertoire.

AUDITION PROCESS

Students can sign up for auditions online using the link found on ilsymphony.org. Under the Education and Outreach tab there is a page devoted to all things ISYO. The sign-up link can be found there.

Each student should rehearse the requested audition requirements (see below) and on the day of their audition should warm-up prior to arrival. No one will be allowed to play in the waiting area before entering the audition room.

Once the student has arrived, they will be asked to wait outside or in their vehicle until the person before them has entered the audition room. We will only permit one student to be waiting in the building at a time to encourage social distancing and adherence to safety guidelines. Students and parents/guardians will be required to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth upon entering the building. Please bring only an instrument, audition music, and a maximum of one parent/guardian into the building. Students may also come into the building 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. Only when they are seated may the student then remove their mask (winds only). Strings and Percussion students should keep their mask on for the duration of the audition.

The music stand will have Sight-reading examples on them and should not be touched until instructed. The student will be told to play a few notes to adjust to the space and let go of any nerves they may have. The student will be asked to play two major scales. If a required scale is listed, this will be performed first. The second scale can be any scale from the requirements list. Winds will then play a chromatic scale thereafter.

After scales, the student will play their prepared solos. Please remember to bring your music with you. If you need help securing music, please contact Logan Campbell at lcampbell@ilsymphony.org or Jackie Mitra at jmitra@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, especially in ensembles after Junior Strings.

Listening: If possible, listen to at least three different recordings of your audition repertoire. Listening to recordings is an important step in preparation for an audition (the more recordings, the better). Also, it is helpful to PLAY a recording while you practice if a recording is available!

Tempo: Perform scales at the tempo indicated. Practice slowly, with a metronome. 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. If possible, practice with a metronome. There are free or inexpensive apps such as Metronome Beats and Pro Metronome, as well as online resources like Metronomus and Metronomeonline.com.

Intonation: Keep listening, carefully, to your tuning/intonation while practicing. Practice with a tuner. If you do not have one, buy one! A tuner is an essential tool in becoming a better performer. There are also free or inexpensive apps like Tuner Lite or G Strings, 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. Play musically once technique is established.

STRING SOLO OPTIONS

VIOLIN  https://ilmea.org/d1-orchestra-auditions
Any solos you have been working on will be fine.

VIOLA  https://ilmea.org/d1-orchestra-auditions
Any solos you have been working on will be fine.

CELLO  https://ilmea.org/d1-orchestra-auditions
Any solos you have been working on will be fine.

BASS  https://ilmea.org/d1-orchestra-auditions
Any solos you have been working on will be fine.
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS
VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, & BASS

SCALES:
- C, G, D, A, and F scales – 1 octave minimum, 2 octaves preferred/required for specific scales (see below).
  - Violins: 2 octave G scale required.
  - Violas: 2 octave C scale required.
  - Cellos: 2 octave C scale required.
- Play separated full bow strokes, quarter note per pitch, at approximately quarter note = 80 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.