

NJSO ACADEMY

Youth Orchestras



OVERVIEW:

Currently there are four ensembles in the NJSO Youth Orchestras:

- Training Ensemble and String Ensemble (formerly Violin Ensemble) are preparatory level groups for violin, viola, cello and bass.
- Chamber Orchestra is for more advanced string players.
- Academy Orchestra is for more advanced string, winds, brass and percussion players.

DIRECTIONS:

Applicants should review the audition requirements for each of the ensembles below and present the requirements that best fit their current level of study.

STRING ENSEMBLE and TRAINING ENSEMBLE (violin, viola, cello, bass)

Pre-requisites:

- **Must be able to read music without letter names.**
- **Must be enrolled in a school music program or have weekly private lessons.**

Audition requirements:

- I. Scales
 - a. Two-octave G major scale
 - b. Two-octave A major scale
 - c. One-octave D major scale
- II. A solo work of the applicant's choice
- III. Sight-reading upon request (provided in the audition room)

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (violin, viola, cello, bass)

Pre-requisites:

- Must be enrolled in a school music program or have weekly private lessons.
- Applicant should have studied *at least* Suzuki late book 3 or materials of comparable difficulty.

Audition requirements:

I. Scales

a. VIOLIN:

- i. One three-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
- ii. One two-octave melodic minor scale of the applicant's choice

b. VIOLA

- i. One two-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
- ii. One two-octave **melodic** minor scale of the applicant's choice

c. CELLO

- i. One two-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
- ii. One two-octave **melodic** minor scale of the applicant's choice

d. BASS

- i. One two-octave G major scale
- ii. One two-octave G **melodic** minor scale

II. A solo work that includes playing in third position

III. Excerpts (to be announced approximately 4 weeks prior to audition)

IV. Sight-reading (provided in the audition room)

ACADEMY ORCHESTRA (strings, winds, brass, percussion)

Pre-requisites:

- **Must be enrolled in a school music program or have weekly private lessons.**

STRING audition requirements:

I. Scales

a. VIOLIN

- One three-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
- One three-octave **melodic** minor scale of the applicant's choice

b. VIOLA

- One two- or three-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
- One two- or three-octave **melodic** minor scale of the applicant's choice

c. CELLO

- One two-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
- One two-octave **melodic** minor scale of the applicant's choice

d. BASS

- One two-octave G major scale (or any two-octave major scale)
- One two-octave G **melodic** minor scale (or any two-octave melodic minor scale)

II. A solo work that best demonstrates the applicant's level of playing

III. Excerpts (to be announced approximately 4 weeks prior to audition)

IV. Sight-reading (will be provided in the audition room)

WOODWIND and BRASS audition requirements:

I. Scales

Scales should be played in eighth notes at quarter note = 80 with ascending notes tongued and descending notes slurred

- A chromatic scale starting from the lowest pitch within your range to the highest
- One major scale and one melodic minor scale played as many octaves as capable
- One major scale and one melodic minor scale in arpeggios played as many octaves as capable

II. A solo piece that best demonstrates the applicant's level of playing

III. Excerpts (to be announced approximately 4 weeks prior to audition)

IV. Sight-reading (will be provided in the audition room)

ACADEMY ORCHESTRA (cont.)

PERCUSSION audition requirements:

- I. Scales: two scales of the applicant's choice on mallet**
- II. Two solo works that best demonstrate the applicant's level of playing**
 - a. One piece on either snare drum or timpani
 - b. One piece on mallet
- III. Excerpts** (to be announced approximately 4 weeks prior to audition)
- IV. Sight-reading** (will be provided in audition room)