

NJSO ACADEMY

Youth Orchestras



OVERVIEW:

Currently there are four ensembles in the NJSO Youth Orchestras:

- Training Ensemble and String Ensemble are preparatory level groups for violin, viola, cello and bass. *There is a residency restriction for Training Ensemble – students must reside in the Greater Newark area.*
- 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)

Note: there are no required excerpts for students auditioning for String Ensemble or Training Ensemble.

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

Play scales 100-120 = quarter note; play in separate bow quarter notes

- VIOLIN:
 - One three-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
 - One two-octave melodic minor scale of the applicant's choice
- VIOLA
 - One two-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
 - One two-octave **melodic** minor scale of the applicant's choice
- CELLO
 - One two-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
 - One two-octave **melodic** minor scale of the applicant's choice
- BASS
 - One two-octave G major scale
 - One two-octave G **melodic** minor scale

II. A solo work that includes playing in third position

III. Excerpts

- VIOLIN
 - Britten, Simple Symphony, Violin II part, first movement, rehearsal #8 through 6 bars before rehearsal #9
 - Britten, Simple Symphony, Violin II part, second movement, rehearsal #17 to the end
 - Britten, Simple Symphony, Violin II part, fourth movement, 8 bars after rehearsal #10 to rehearsal #11

To be considered for Violin 1, please also prepare:

- Bartok, Romanian Folk Dances, Violin I part, first movement, beginning to downbeat of bar 20

Chamber Orchestra continued:

- b. VIOLA
 - i. Bartok, Romanian Folk Dances, second movement, measures 3-18
 - ii. Britten, Simple Symphony, fourth mvt, beginning to reh. 1
 - iii. Britten, Simple Symphony, fourth mvt, pickup to reh. 2 to 5 measures before reh. 3
- c. CELLO
 - i. Britten, Simple Symphony, first movement, beginning to rehearsal #2 (skip the X-out measures of rest)
 - ii. Britten, Simple Symphony, fourth movement, pick up to rehearsal #2 to 5 bars before rehearsal #3
 - iii. Britten, Simple Symphony, fourth movement, 3 bars after rehearsal #12 to rehearsal #13
- d. BASS
 - i. Britten, Simple Symphony, first movement, 8 bars after rehearsal #1 to rehearsal #2
 - ii. Britten, Simple Symphony, fourth movement, pickup to rehearsal #2 to 8 measures after rehearsal #2

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.**

Academy Orchestra - STRING audition requirements:

I. Scales

Play scales 112-120 = quarter note; play in separate bow quarter notes

- a. VIOLIN
 - i. One three-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
 - ii. One three-octave melodic minor scale of the applicant's choice
- b. VIOLA
 - i. One two- or three-octave major scale of the applicant's choice
 - ii. One two- or three-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
- b. BASS
 - i. One two-octave G major scale (or any two-octave major scale)
 - ii. One two-octave G melodic minor scale (or any two-octave melodic minor scale)

Academy Orchestra Strings continued:

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

III. Orchestral excerpts

a. VIOLIN

- i. Peaks, measure 29 through 39
- ii. Rimsky-Korsakov, Russian Easter Overture, violin 2 part, rehearsal H through 10 measures after rehearsal I
- iii. Rimsky-Korsakov, Russian Easter Overture, violin 2 part, "Maestoso alla breve" to rehearsal Z

To be considered for Violin 1, please also prepare:

- iv. De Falla, Spanish Dance, 3 measures before rehearsal 15 to the end

b. VIOLA

- i. Rimsky-Korsakov, Russian Easter Overture, 16 measures after rehearsal Y [Maestoso alla breve] through 4 measures before rehearsal Z
- ii. De Falla, Spanish Dance, rehearsal 11 to rehearsal 14
- iii. De Falla, Spanish Dance, 6 measures after rehearsal 15 [senza div] through 2 measures before the "Lento e sost." (6 measures before rehearsal 17)

c. CELLO

- i. Lalo, Cello Concerto, first 8 measures
- ii. Rimsky-Korsakov, Russian Easter Overture, 14 measures after rehearsal T until rehearsal U
- iii. De Falla, Spanish Dance, reh. 12 to 1 bar measure before reh. 13 (play the top (solo) line)

d. BASS

- i. Rimsky-Korsakov, 21 measures after rehearsal O to 3 measures after rehearsal Q
- ii. Lalo, first 8 bars
- iii. De Falla, rehearsal 7 to 18 measures after rehearsal 7

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

Academy Orchestra - 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. A chromatic scale starting from the lowest pitch within your range to the highest
- b. One major scale and one melodic minor scale played as many octaves as capable
- c. 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. Orchestral Excerpts (see Excerpts link on website)

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

Academy Orchestra - 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. Orchestral Excerpts (see Excerpts link on website)

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