

High Plains YOUTH SYMPHONY

CHAMBER STRINGS AND SINFONIETTA

Audition Guidelines

The auditioning committee will consider musicianship and technical proficiency.

Technical proficiency:

Intonation, Rhythm, Facility

Musicianship/Phrasing:

Ability to shape musical phrases

Concept of sound/tone quality

Use and application of vibrato (not valid for clarinets and horns)

Application of dynamic contrasts

Command of articulation

Repertoire

Scales: Demonstrate best concept of pitch and tone. Scales will be selected by the student.

Solo: Strings: three minute solo or solo excerpt of their choice which best demonstrates the musician's musical and technical abilities. It may be an excerpt from a longer solo. This must be played without accompaniment. Memorization is optional.

Winds: two solos or solo excerpts of their choice which best demonstrate musical and technical abilities. Each solo should be two to three minutes long, one in a fast tempo and one in a slow tempo. This must be played without accompaniment. Memorization is optional.

Sight Reading: the audition committee may provide short sight reading passages.

Dress

The audition is a form of an interview; please dress appropriately for the occasion.

Information for winds, brass, and percussion

As the Symphony's core repertoire is Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Brahms, students should be technically and musically advanced enough to meet these repertoire requirements, and select their audition material accordingly. The prepared piece should display faster technical passages and slower, lyrical, expressive passages.

Information for string players

What string criteria/performance skills are needed for each orchestra?

Violin

Sinfonietta:

3 octave major scale

can sight read all notes in 1st position

can use whole bow

familiar with 3rd position

Chamber Strings:

3 octave major and melodic minor scale
can tune their own instrument well
sight-reads in 1st and 3rd positions
plays with vibrato
can play off the string
plays well in 3rd position, familiar with 4th and 5th positions
has some orchestra experience

Symphony:

3 octave major and melodic minor scale demonstrating advanced bowing styles
sight-reads in 1st - 5th positions
plays with a mature vibrato
plays off the string well and is familiar with more advanced bowing techniques
plays well in 1st through 6th positions
has orchestra experience
displays musical sensitivity (dynamics, phrasing, tone, etc.)

Viola

Sinfonietta:

3 octave major scale
can sight read all notes in 1st position
can use whole bow
plays with vibrato
familiar with 3rd position

Chamber Strings:

3 octave major and melodic minor scale
sight-reads in 1st and 3rd positions
plays with vibrato
can play off the string
plays well in 3rd position and beginning to play in 4th and 5th positions
has some orchestra experience

Symphony:

3 octave major and melodic minor scale demonstrating advanced bowing styles
sight-reads in 1st - 5th positions
plays with a mature vibrato
plays off the string well and is familiar with more advanced bowing techniques
plays well in 1st through 6th positions
has orchestra experience
displays musical sensitivity (dynamics, phrasing, tone, etc.)

Cello

Sinfonietta:

3 octave major scale
can tune own instrument well

sight-reads in 1st through 4th positions
plays with vibrato
can use whole bow

Chamber Strings:

3 octave major and melodic minor scale
can tune own instrument well
sight-reads in 1st through 4th positions
plays with vibrato
can use whole bow and play off the string
plays fluently in 1st through 4th position, can play in higher positions
familiar with tenor clef
has some orchestra experience

Symphony:

3 octave major and melodic minor scale demonstrating advanced bowing styles
plays with mature vibrato
plays off the string well and is familiar with more advanced bowing techniques
plays easily in bass, tenor and treble clefs (plays easily in thumb position)
displays musical sensitivity (dynamics, phrasing, tone, etc.)
has orchestra experience

Can you give some examples of violin solo pieces that correlate to each orchestra's level?

Sinfonietta:	Vivaldi Violin Concerto in A minor
Chamber Strings:	Handel Violin Sonata; Fiocco Allegro; Bach Violin Concerto in A minor
Symphony:	Mozart G Major Violin Concerto; Haydn G Major Violin Concerto

How do we clarify whether a student is auditioning for 1st or 2nd violin?

Chair placements will be determined at the placement auditions in August.