



Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra

Audition Requirements

All candidates should prepare a solo piece that adequately shows their ability on their instrument and has contrasting sections. Solo pieces should be around 3-5 minutes long, though candidates may select to perform a section of a longer piece. Repeats should not be played. Candidates will be assessed for technical ability, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, and musicianship. Candidates are allowed to audition on multiple instruments, but must submit a separate video for each instrument. An accompanist is not necessary.

Please note that entrance to the Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra is not guaranteed. Ensemble placement is determined by the MSYO Music Director & Audition Committee.

Ensemble Qualifications

The MSYO is made up of two large ensembles: The **Concert Orchestra** and the **Symphony Orchestra**. Please see the qualifications for each ensemble below to determine which group you should audition for.

STRING PLAYERS

Concert Orchestra: Strings in Grades 5-9 (*intermediate*)

Symphony Orchestra: Strings in Grades 9-12 (*advanced*)

String players in 9th grade may audition for either Concert or Symphony Orchestra. Those who are interested in auditioning for the Symphony Orchestra should prepare a Symphony Orchestra audition video.

Please note that string players in grade 9 may be placed in either Concert or Symphony Orchestra.

WINDS AND PERCUSSION

Concert Orchestra: Winds and Percussion in Grades 5-12 (*intermediate*)

Symphony Orchestra: Winds and Percussion in Grades 9-12 (*advanced*)

Wind and percussion players who are interested in auditioning for Symphony Orchestra should prepare a Symphony Orchestra audition video. ***Wind Players and Percussionists in grades 9-12 may be placed into either Concert Orchestra or Symphony Orchestra, depending on seat availability.***



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Below is what is required to be recorded in your video audition. Please prepare your audition video according to the ensemble you wish to join.

Concert Orchestra

STRINGS:

- **One major scale of your choice.**
 - Two octaves
 - Separate bow strokes
 - Minimum metronome marking of quarter note = 72.
- **One minor scale of your choice.**
 - Two octaves
 - Separate bow strokes
 - Minimum metronome marking of quarter note = 72.
- **Solo piece**

WINDS:

- **One major scale of your choice.**
 - One octave
 - Minimum metronome marking of quarter note = 72.
- **One minor scale of your choice.**
 - One octave
 - Minimum metronome marking of quarter note = 72.
- **Solo piece**

PERCUSSION:

- **Solo piece on instrument of choice** (snare drum, bells, etc.)

Symphony Orchestra

STRINGS:

- **One major scale of your choice (except G major).**
 - Three octaves
 - Separate bow strokes
 - Minimum metronome marking of quarter note = 72.
- **One minor scale of your choice.**
 - Three octaves
 - Separate bow strokes
 - Minimum metronome marking of quarter note = 72.
- **Solo piece**

WINDS:

- **One major scale of your choice.**
 - Two octaves
 - Minimum metronome marking of quarter note = 72.
- **One minor scale of your choice.**
 - Two octaves
 - Minimum metronome marking of quarter note = 72.
- **Chromatic scale encompassing the range of your instrument.**
 - Minimum metronome marking of quarter note = 72.
- **Solo Piece**

PERCUSSION:

- **Solo piece on instrument of choice** (snare drum, bells, etc.)



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How to Record an Audition Video

The Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra understands that recording an audition video will be a new experience for many of our applicants and they may not have the technology to record a “high quality” video (e.g. microphones or video cameras). It is acceptable to record your audition video via a laptop, a cell phone, or by any other means that you have. Please just make sure that your body and instrument are visible on the screen and that the audio is clear.

- Review and prepare the audition requirements for your selected instrument/ensemble.
- Find a space where you can record without being interrupted.
- Start the video by stating your name, grade (as of fall of 2021), which school you attend, and who you study with if you take private lessons.
- Record your major scale.
- Record your minor scale.
- Record your chromatic scale (*Symphony Wind Auditions Only*)
- Record your solo piece.
- Review your audition video and make sure that you’re happy with what you are submitting!
- Save your video file as last name_first name_instrument (e.g. Doe_John_Trumpet).
- Submit your video via the provided dropbox link.

Please visit:

www.modestosymphony.org/msyo-auditions
to register, resources, audition video examples, and
for more information about the MSYO.