

2012-2013 Audition Information

Piano



1. General Information. Piano is used in the orchestras as needed, depending on the repertoire chosen for the season. The student must be a strong, confident player and should have previous accompaniment or ensemble experience. Rotation of pianists between orchestras may be required, as there may be occasions when more than one orchestra needs a pianist. Those students qualifying at that orchestra level will be contacted if a position is open.

A student who is selected for a piano position must be a strong, confident player and have previous accompaniment or ensemble experience. During the audition, students should expect to perform a solo piece, scales & arpeggios, and be prepared to sightread both orchestral excerpts and a piano accompaniment.

With your solo and/or sightreading, you may be asked to play it again in a different manner (slower, faster, more lyrically, etc.). Please regard this as evidence of your musical flexibility, which will weigh heavily on the success of your audition.

2. Solo piece. Prepare a polished, recital-ready, unaccompanied solo piece. You may play any work of your choice, but the level of difficulty should be an accurate representation of your technical and artistic ability. Remember, it is not so much what you play, but how well you play. Your solo piece need not be memorized. You may be asked to stop playing before you reach the end of your prepared piece; if this happens, please understand that it is only in the interest of time, not a reflection of your playing.

3. Scales & technique. Pianists are required to know ALL the major and minor scales in the natural form in 2 octaves, hands together, and know the corresponding arpeggios and principal chords for each scale. All required scales must be memorized. Automatically play the corresponding arpeggios to a scale.

4. Sight-reading. Sight-reading for all orchestras will include complex rhythms relative to the level of orchestra.

5. Orchestra placement. Student placement is competitive and is ranked in order of artistic quality. Those qualities include superiority of tone, intonation, dynamic range, musicality and general accuracy. Although a student may be able to perform all the requirements for a particular orchestra, he or she may still not qualify based on the level of competition in a given year.

6. Auditions are closed to the public, including parents and families.

7. Prior participation in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies is no guarantee of placement.