

2010-2011 Audition Information Piano/Accompanist



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

A student who is selected for the accompanist position must be a strong, confident player and have previous accompaniment 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, if required.

4. 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.

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

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

FOR ADDITIONAL AUDITION TIPS, REFER TO THE AUDITIONS PAGE AT WWW.MNYOUTHSYMPHONIES.ORG.