

# AUDITION POLICIES

## REVISED DECEMBER 2022



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The instructors at MYS take the placement of students in the ensembles very seriously. Through the audition process, instructors use various metrics to measure the current level of ability and room for growth in our students. Placement in the ensembles is made with the students' best interests in mind, so that each student faces appropriate challenges while being given room to improve and grow as musicians. The policies below are meant to clarify the general processes applicable to all students. Please direct any questions to your current ensemble director. Requirements for auditions on every instrument and for each ensemble can be found at [www.mnyouthsymphonies.org/auditions](http://www.mnyouthsymphonies.org/auditions).

### SUMMER AUDITIONS

The primary avenue to entering MYS and for being assessed as one matures as a musician is through the summer auditions. Auditions are meant to be a constructive opportunity for students to strive to exhibit their level of achievement and for instructors to assess what level of challenge will have a positive impact on a student's musical growth. Ensemble placement through this process is intended to provide students and families with a fair and appropriate sense of where they are at relative to the expectations of the instructors hearing auditions.

### MID-YEAR AUDITIONS

For mid-year auditions, directors take into account instrumentation needs of their ensembles, which may affect whether or not auditions are held for some instruments. Please inquire with your conductor or with Aisling Goel ([agoel@mnyouthsymphonies.org](mailto:agoel@mnyouthsymphonies.org)) about the capacity of an ensemble for your instrument.

For students entering MYS mid-year, there will be auditions approximately one month prior to the start of each of the 2nd and 3rd trimesters. Expectations for these auditions are the same as they are for summer auditions and placement is based on the same considerations.

For students who are already members of MYS who wish to audition to move "up" to the next level orchestra/ensemble, the expectation is that students will spend at least two consecutive trimesters in the ensemble they were placed in after their most recent audition. If, after two trimesters in the same ensembles, a student believes they have made such substantial progress in their playing that they feel capable of moving to a more challenging level of ensemble, they may inquire with their ensemble director about auditioning.

For students who are members of MYS and who drop out for one trimester\*, the expectation is that they will rejoin MYS in the same ensemble they were placed in at their last audition (i.e. no new audition is necessary). The exception would be if a student were to drop for the final trimester, because all students re-audition in the summer before the start of the new year.

\*Please note that when students and families commit to MYS at the start of the year, *they are asked to affirm that they plan to remain in MYS for the full year.* Please take this commitment seriously as the directors, your fellow students and the community at large thrives when all members share an equal sense of commitment. However, we do acknowledge that unexpected circumstances arise and we wish to be as accommodating as possible in the case of any unforeseen hardship.

*Audition policies subject to revision at the discretion of the Artistic Staff.*