2021-2022 Audition Information
Harp

minnesota youth symphonies®
you'll be amazed.

1. Solo piece. Prepare a polished, recital-ready, unaccompanied solo piece that demonstrates your technical ability. A slow, non-technical solo *must* be contrasted with a faster, more technical solo. You may play any work of your choice. Remember, it is not what you play that matters most but how well you play. Musical expression, dynamics, phrasing, etc all help make for a successful solo presentation. Your solo piece need not be memorized but the entire piece should be performance-ready. You may be asked to stop playing before you reach the end of your prepared piece or asked to play only a particular section. If this happens, please understand that it is only in the interest of time and not a reflection of your playing.

2. Excerpts. Prepare the excerpt(s) included in this packet for the orchestra closest to your ability level (choose one level: String, Philharmonic, Repertory or Symphony). If you are unfamiliar with the excerpts, consult with your private teacher or a coach who is familiar with them. It is recommended that you also listen to a recording or live performance of the piece in order to give yourself proper tempo and musical context. As with your solo piece, the performance of your excerpt(s) should be an accurate representation of your technical and artistic ability. The rhythmic excerpts for Repertory and Symphony are equally important and it is suggested that you bring it to your lesson as well.

Note: With your solo and/or your prepared excerpt(s), 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.

3. Scales & technique. All required scales must be memorized. Automatically play the corresponding arpeggios to a scale, if required.

> **PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA:** Harpists are required to know the following major scales: A, Ab, Bb, C, E, Eb, F in two octaves, hands separately. Harpists should know the following minor scales: a, b, c#, c, d, e, g, f# & g in two octaves, hands separately.
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> **REPERTORY ORCHESTRA:** ALL major & minor (natural) scales in two octaves. **Technique:** Must be able to produce a full, clear tone.
>
> **SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS:** ALL major & minor (harmonic, melodic & natural) scales in two octaves. **Technique:** Must be able to produce a full, clear tone.

4. Sight-reading. Sight-reading for all orchestras will include complex rhythms relative to the level of orchestra. Feel free to tell the conductor which orchestra you are trying out for.

5. Orchestra placement. Student placement is competitive and is ranked in order of artistic quality. Those qualities include superiority of tone, intonation, vibrato (as appropriate), 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.

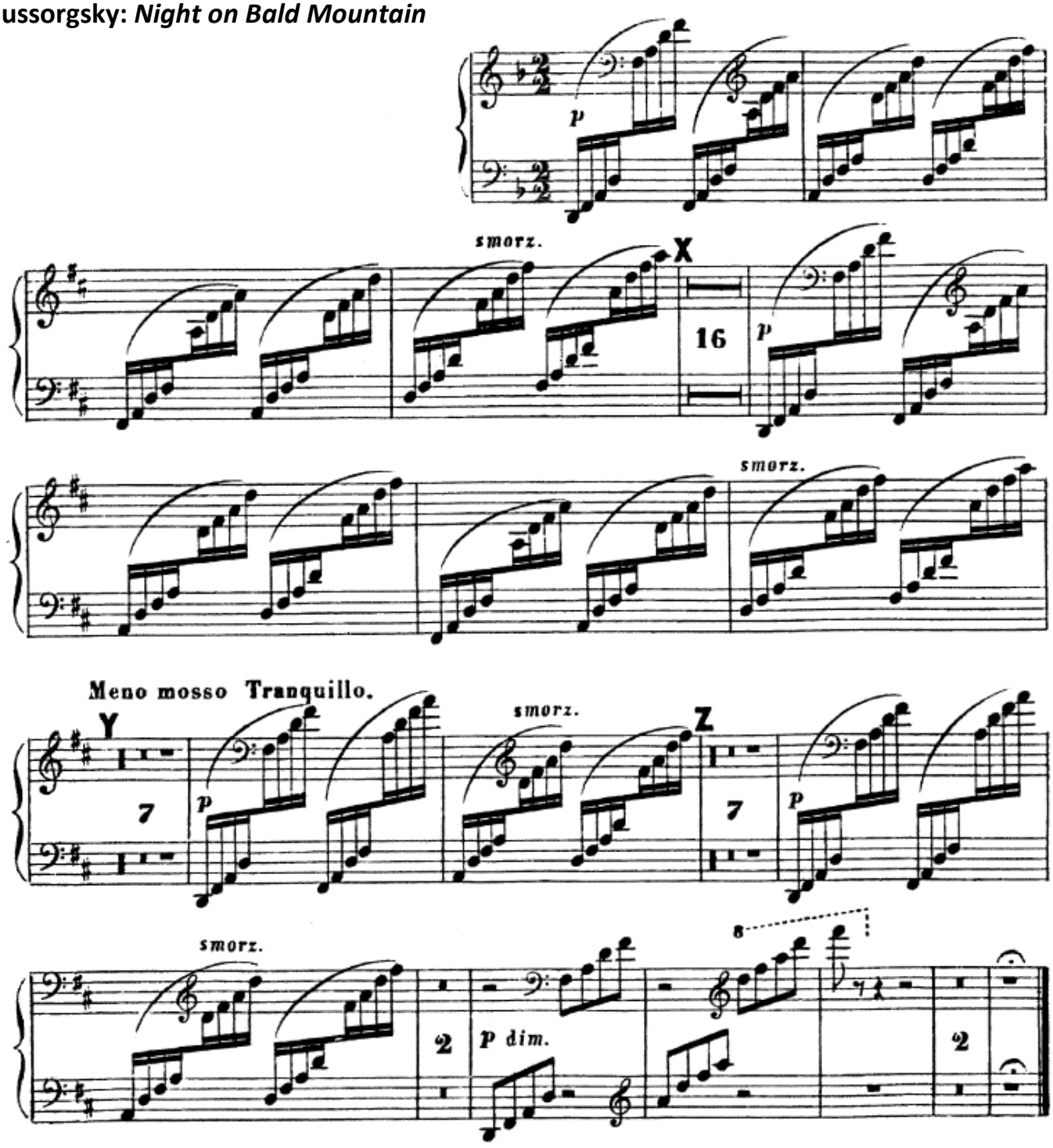
Due to COVID-19, in-person auditions are subject to change and may move to Zoom if needed. Please see mnyouthsymphonies.org/auditions for the most up-to-date information.

Questions? Call (651) 699-5811 or e-mail mys@mnyouthsymphonies.org.

*Please note: students auditioning for Wind Orchestra do **not** need to prepare an excerpt.*

PHILHARMONIC EXCERPT

Mussorgsky: *Night on Bald Mountain*

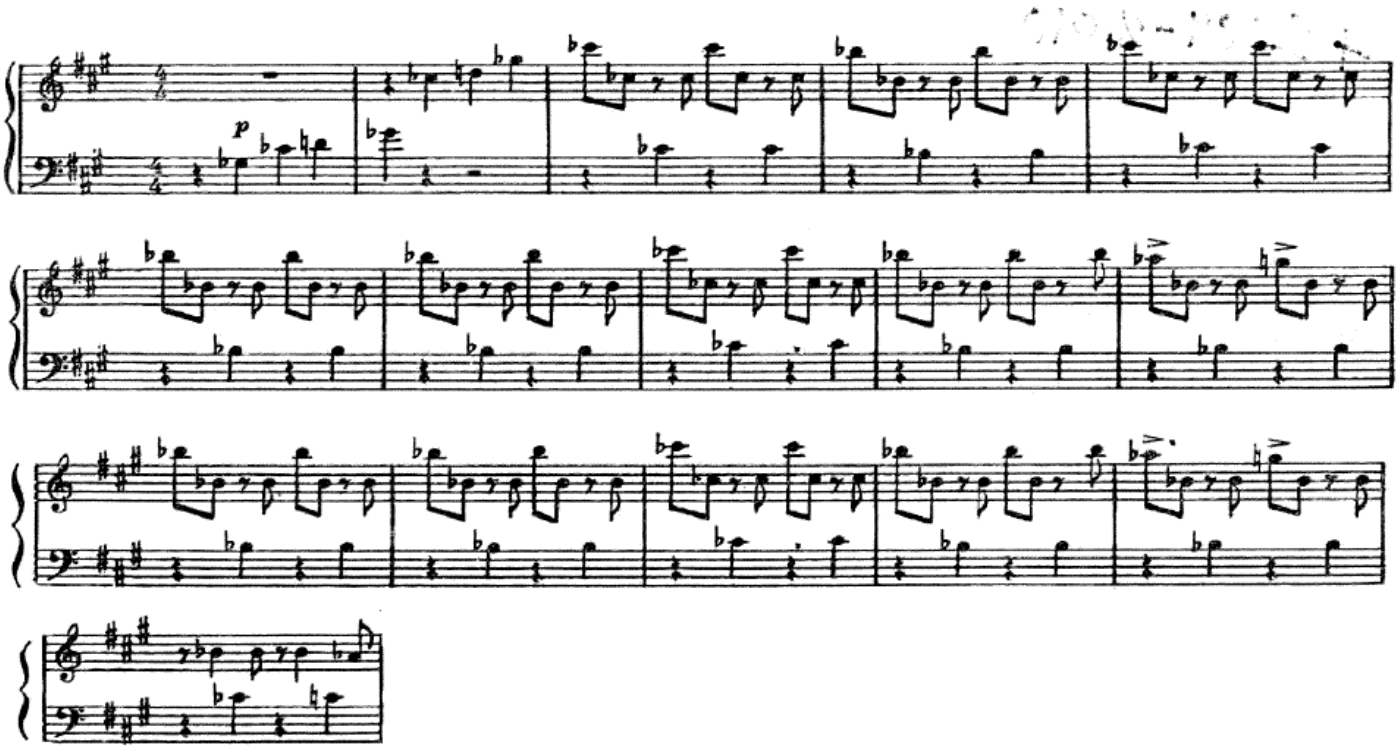


REPERTORY AND SYMPHONY EXCERPT

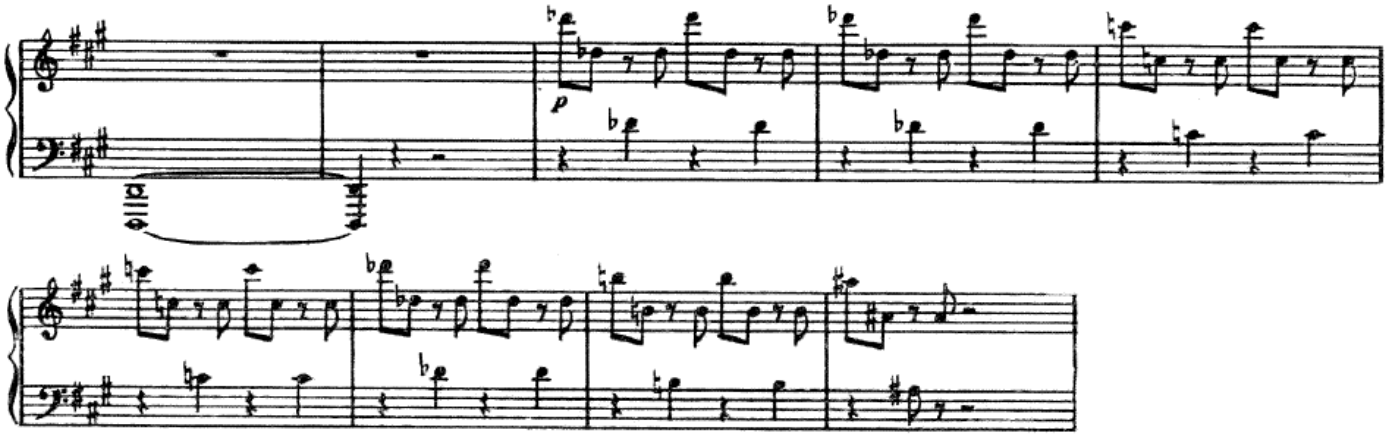
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5 in D minor, III. Largo

♩ = 60

Excerpt Part 1



Excerpt Part 2



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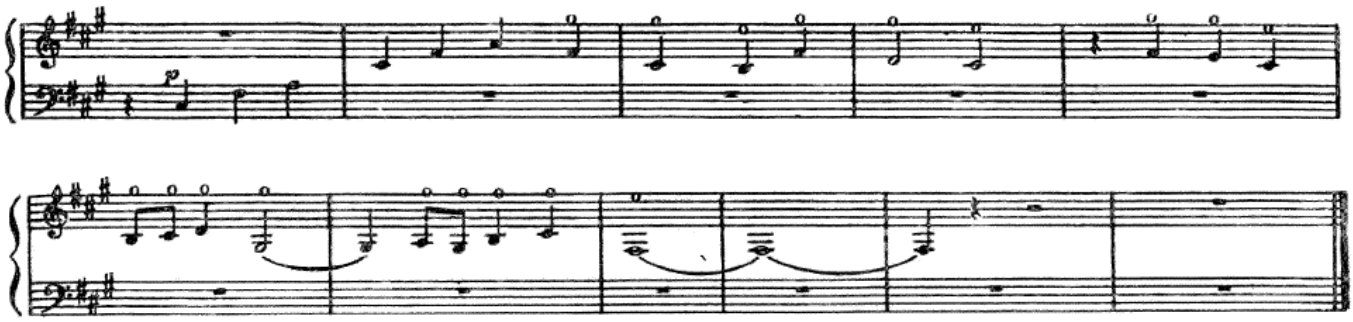
Excerpt Part 3



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REPERTORY AND SYMPHONY RHYTHM EXCERPT

L'Histoire Du Soldat by Stravinsky

Instructions: At your audition you will be asked to **sing** the rhythm of this excerpt (pitch does not matter, only the rhythm; for example, you may sing on the syllable "ta"). You should practice with a metronome at quarter note = 120 or an eighth note = 240. You may be asked to sing along with the metronome at the audition (a metronome will be provided). You will NOT be asked to play this excerpt on your instrument. The best way to learn this rhythm is to start slow and increase your speed over time.