2019-2020 Audition Information
Piano

1. **Solo piece.** Prepare a polished, recital-ready, 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. 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, not a reflection of your playing.

2. Excerpts. Play one excerpt, included in this packet, closest to your ability level. If you are unfamiliar with the excerpt, 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 in order to give yourself proper tempo and musical context. As with your solo piece, the performance of your excerpt should be an accurate representation of your technical and artistic ability. With your solo and/or prepared excerpt, 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 arpeggio to a scale.

> Pianists are required to know ALL the major and minor scaled in the natural form in 2 octaves, hands together, and know the corresponding arpeggios and principal chords for each scale. The student must be a confident player and have previous accompaniment experience. Rotation of pianists among orchestras may be required. Students qualifying for a particular orchestra will be contacted as needed.

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.

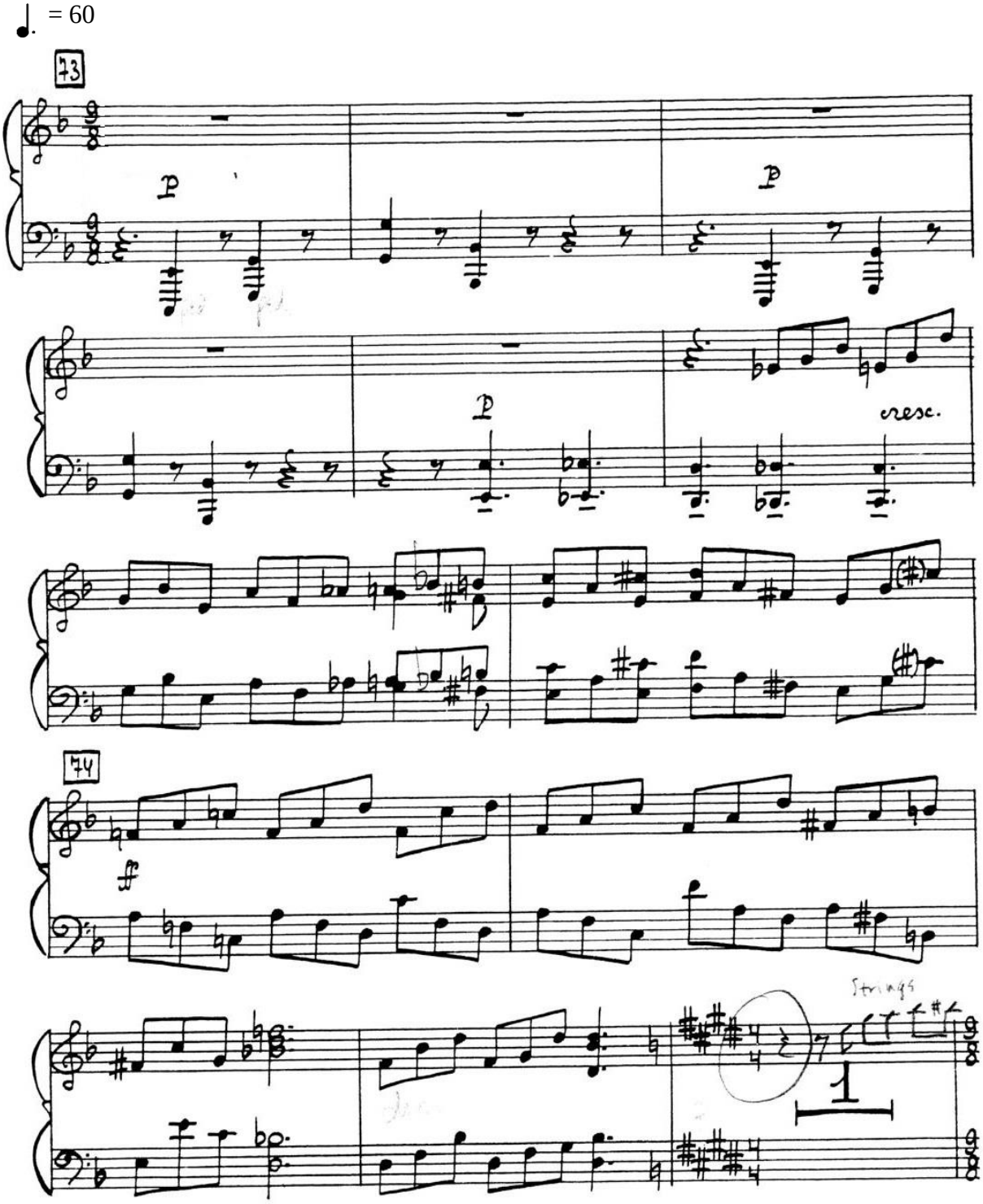
5. Orchestra placement. Student placement is competitive and is ranked in order of artistic quality. Those qualities include superiority of tone, intonation, vibrato (as appropriate), dynamic range, musicality and general accuracy. Although a student may be able to perform all the requirements for a 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.**

String & Philharmonic Orchestra Piano Excerpt

Symphony #5 by Sergei Prokofiev



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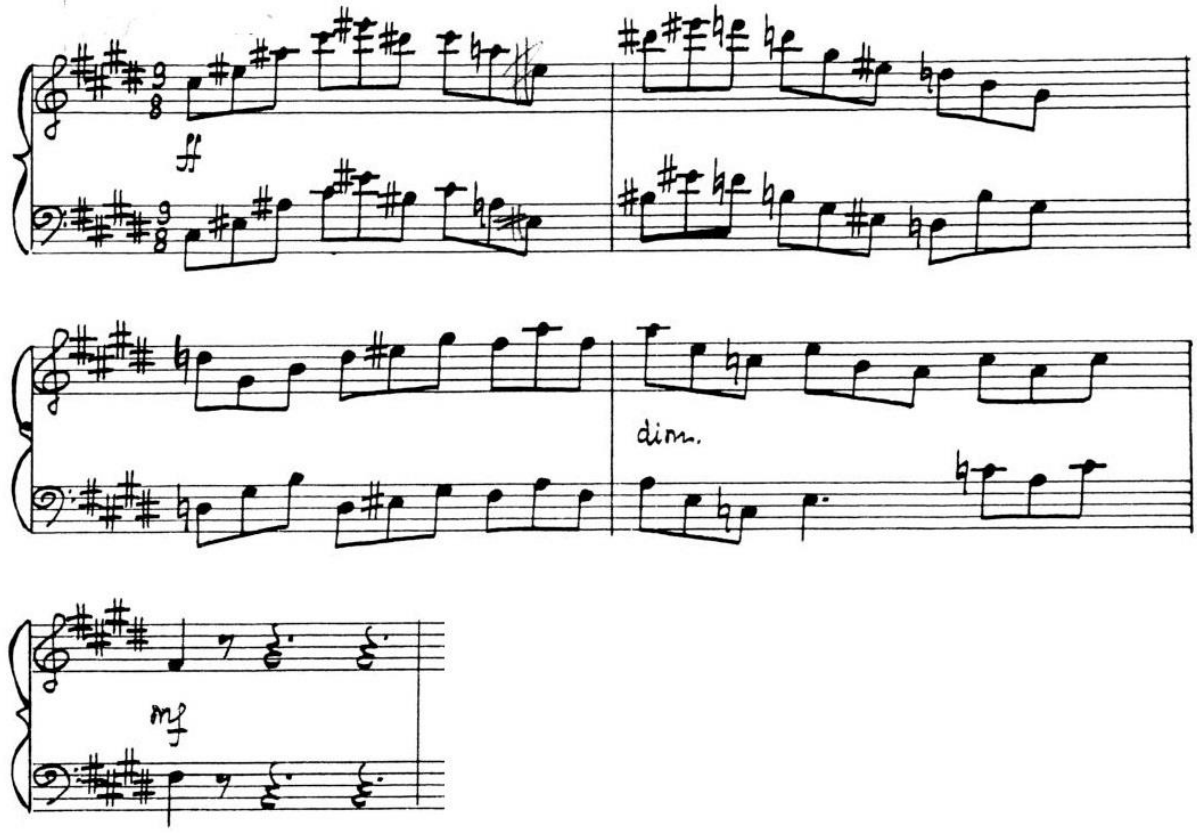
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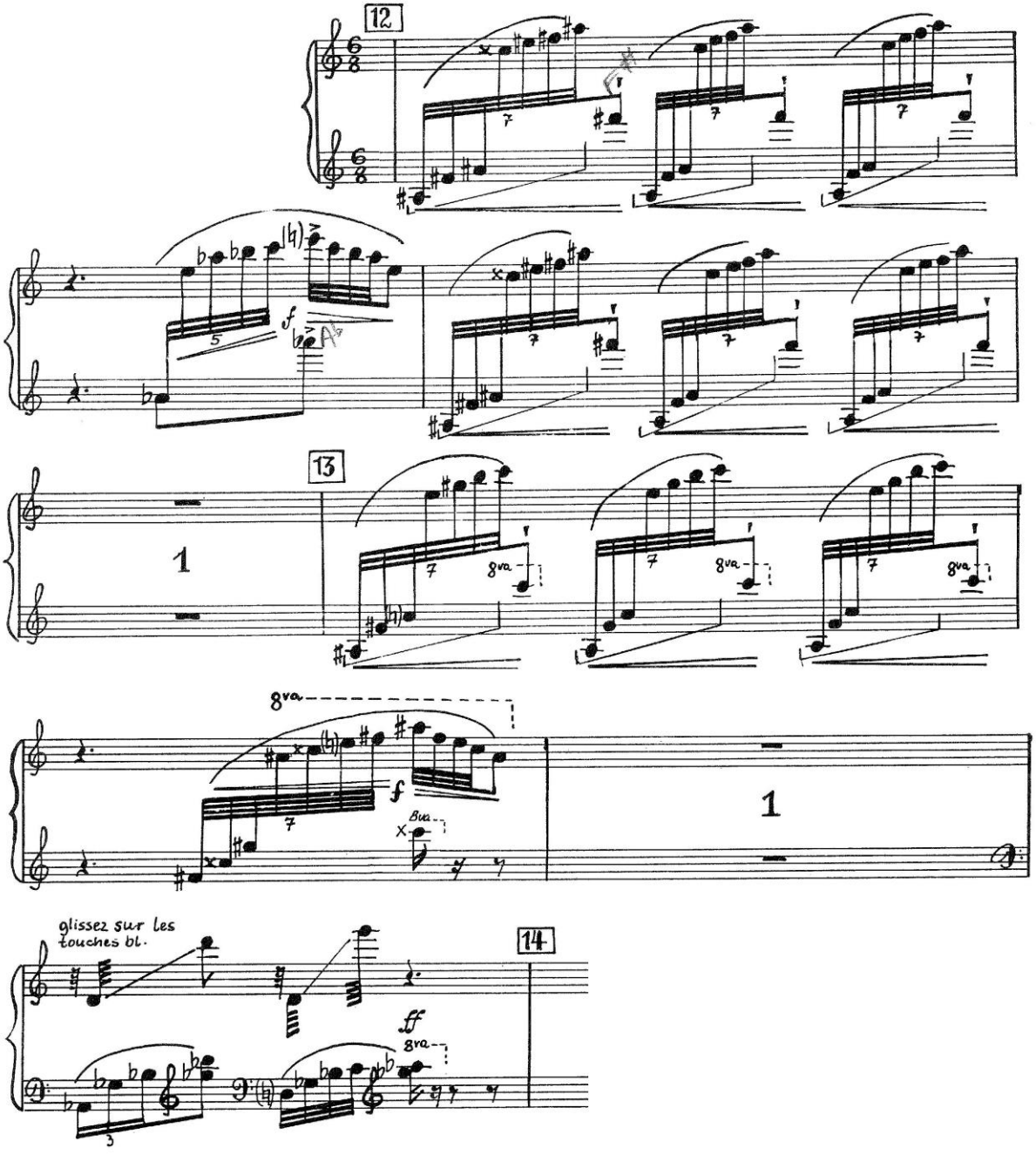
Repertory and Symphony Piano Excerpt

Firebird Suite by Igor Stravinsky

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