2024-25 Audition Guidelines: BASS

- Auditions for the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS - pronounced git-seez) are opportunities to play your instrument and submit a recorded video to us so we can get to know you and place you with one of our 11 incredible school-year orchestras!
- Please contact us at mail@gtcys.org or call 651.602.6800 if you have any questions about the audition process or requirements.

AUDITION STEPS
1. Register for an audition at gtcys.org/auditions.
2. Decide which audition level to prepare. **Pick one level** based on your abilities and experience. To learn more about each of our groups, click the name of an orchestra below or visit gtcys.org/programs/orchestras.

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<th>Skill Levels</th>
<th>Strings Audition Levels</th>
<th>Winds, Brass, and Percussion Audition Levels</th>
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<td>Beginning skills</td>
<td><strong>Philharmonia East &amp; West</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sinfonia East &amp; West</strong></td>
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<td>Developing skills</td>
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<td>Advanced skills</td>
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<td><strong>Camerata orchestras / Concert Orchestra</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Most advanced skills</td>
<td><strong>Philharmonic / Symphony</strong></td>
<td><strong>Philharmonic / Symphony</strong></td>
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3. Practice, practice, practice!
4. **Record your audition video in one take** and submit it online by **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**.
5. See gtcys.org/auditions for deadlines, video submission instructions, audition tips, frequently asked questions, information about tuition assistance, and more.

WHAT TO PRACTICE FOR YOUR AUDITION

SCALES
- Prepare and record all scales listed in your audition level – use the listed tempos as a guide.
- Scales are written out for some levels - you can choose any articulation.
- Minor scales can be performed in any form (natural, harmonic, or melodic), unless otherwise stated.

SOLO
- Prepare music that demonstrates your best playing abilities. Selections can include solos, studies, school ensemble music, or other works.
- **Your recorded solo should not be more than 3 minutes in length.** If needed, please choose a shorter section of your solo to fit this time requirement.

EXCERPTS
- Excerpts are short sections taken from larger pieces of music.
- Prepare all excerpts listed in your audition level and follow all markings.
- Look up or translate any unfamiliar musical terms to ensure a successful performance.
- Listen to recordings of excerpts (when available through YouTube, Spotify, etc.) for guidance with tempos, musicality, and phrasing – your excerpt performance will be judged on all artistic merits, not just note accuracy.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AUDITIONING
- Local professional musicians will listen to your recording and you will be placed in an orchestra based on your audition performance. Other factors such as instrumentation needs may be considered as well.
- The audition level you choose to prepare does not ensure placement in those orchestras; placements are based on the overall quality of your performance.
- GTCYS makes every effort to offer all students placements; if you are placed in an orchestra that has too many of your instrument then you may be placed on a waitlist.
- **Tuition assistance and support for private lessons is available.** GTCYS is committed to serving young musicians regardless of financial constraints. Interested families can find more information at gtcys.org/auditions.
- Previous participation in GTCYS does not guarantee placement and all placements are final.
Music is mostly in first position with some shifting to third position, and musicians should know detaché and staccato bow strokes. To audition for one of these orchestras, please prepare and record the following:

**SCALES**
- Scales may be performed with any articulation

\[\begin{align*}
\text{C major - 1 octave } & \frac{\text{d}}{\text{= 50}} \\
\text{A minor - 1 octave } & \frac{\text{d}}{\text{= 50}}
\end{align*}\]

**SOLO**
- Your choice - 3 minutes or less

**EXCERPT**

Frost - *Simplicity*, mm. 29-36

\[\begin{align*}
\text{Allegro moderato } & \frac{\text{j}}{\text{= 112}} \\
\text{pizz.} & \\
\text{mf} & \\
p &
\end{align*}\]
BASS - Sinfonia East & West and Concertino East & West

Music includes shifting to fourth position and keys through three sharps and flats. Musicians should have beginning use of vibrato. To audition for one of these orchestras, please prepare and record the following:

SCALES
- Scales may be performed with any articulation.

F major - 1 octave (2 octaves if possible) \( \frac{d}{\text{beats per minute}} = 66 \)

G minor - 1 octave (2 octaves if possible) \( \frac{d}{\text{beats per minute}} = 66 \)

SOLO
- Your choice - 3 minutes or less

EXCERPT

Del Borgo - Slavonic Legend, mm. 84-104

\[ \text{With Vigor} \quad (\frac{d}{\text{beats per minute}} = 126) \]

\[ \text{p} \quad \text{cresc.} \]
BASS - Camerata orchestras and Concert Orchestra

Musicians should be comfortable in higher positions, have the use of varied articulations, have good sight-reading skills, and experience in advanced key signatures. To audition for one of these orchestras, please prepare and record the following:

SCALES
- A major - 2 octaves, separate bows in quarter note (quarter note = 84)
- C melodic minor - 2 octaves, separate bows in quarter note (quarter note = 84)

SOLO
- Your choice - 3 minutes or less

EXCERPTS

Meyer - Millennium, mm. 161-169

Buxtehude, arr. Johnson - Chaconne in E minor, pickup to Reh 16 to 4 mm. before Reh 18
BASS - Philharmonic and Symphony

Musicians should be skilled in all major and minor keys as well as advanced positions and bow technique. To audition for one of these orchestras, please prepare and record the following:

**SCALES**
- G major - 3 octaves, separate bows in quarter notes (quarter note = 108)
- B melodic minor - 2 octaves (3 if possible), separate bows in quarter notes (quarter note = 108)

**SOLO**
- Your choice - 3 minutes or less

**EXCERPTS**

Tchaikovsky - *Symphony No. 5, Mvt. 1, mm. 68-115*