2026-27 Audition Guidelines: CELLO

Auditions for the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS, pronounced git-seez) are opportunities to play your instrument and submit a short, recorded video so we can place you with one of our 11 incredible school-year orchestras! Because of GTCYS' multi-level orchestra structure, almost every student is accepted!

WHAT TO PREPARE

The next pages of this packet list the required scales and excerpts for each playing level. Once you decide which level best fits your abilities, prepare:

1. All the **scales** listed for your audition level. Minor scales can be performed in any form (natural, harmonic, or melodic), unless otherwise stated.
2. **Solo**: Prepare a piece of music (solo, etude, school ensemble music, or similar) that demonstrates your best playing abilities, that's no longer than 3 minutes. Record without piano accompaniment. Select a shorter section to fit the time limit if needed.
3. All the **excerpts** (short selections of music) listed for your audition level.

AUDITION STEPS

1. **Register for your audition** at snapaudition.com: Click "Find an Audition" and search for Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies.
2. **Pick one level** based on your abilities and experience. To learn more about each orchestra, visit gtcys.org/orchestras.

Skill Level	Typical Strings Orchestra Placement	Typical Winds, Brass, Percussion, and Harp Orchestra Placement
Beginning	Philharmonia	Sinfonia
Developing	Sinfonia Concertino	Concertino
Intermediate	Camerata Concert Orchestra	Camerata Concert Orchestra
Advanced	Philharmonic Symphony	Philharmonic Symphony

3. **Practice**, practice, practice!
4. **Record your audition video in one take** (no editing!)
5. Complete your registration in snapaudition.com and **upload your audition video** by **Tuesday, December 1, 2026 at 11:59pm**.
6. **Audition results will be emailed in December.**

MORE INFO

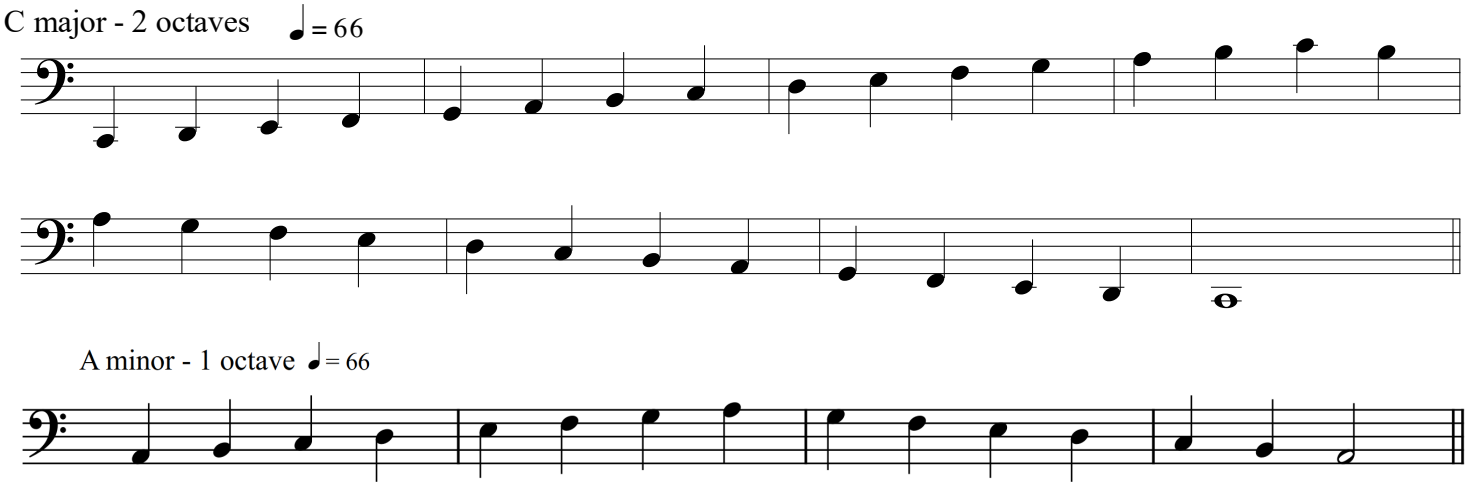
Find detailed instructions, tips, frequently asked questions, and tuition assistance information at gtcys.org/auditions. Contact us at mail@gtcys.org or call 651.602.6800 with questions.

CELLO - Philharmonia East & West

Repertoire is primarily first position, and students should know detaché and staccato bow strokes. Prepare and record the following requirements if they accurately represent your current skill level. Your chosen audition level doesn't guarantee or limit your orchestra placement.

SCALES

- Scales may be performed with any articulation.
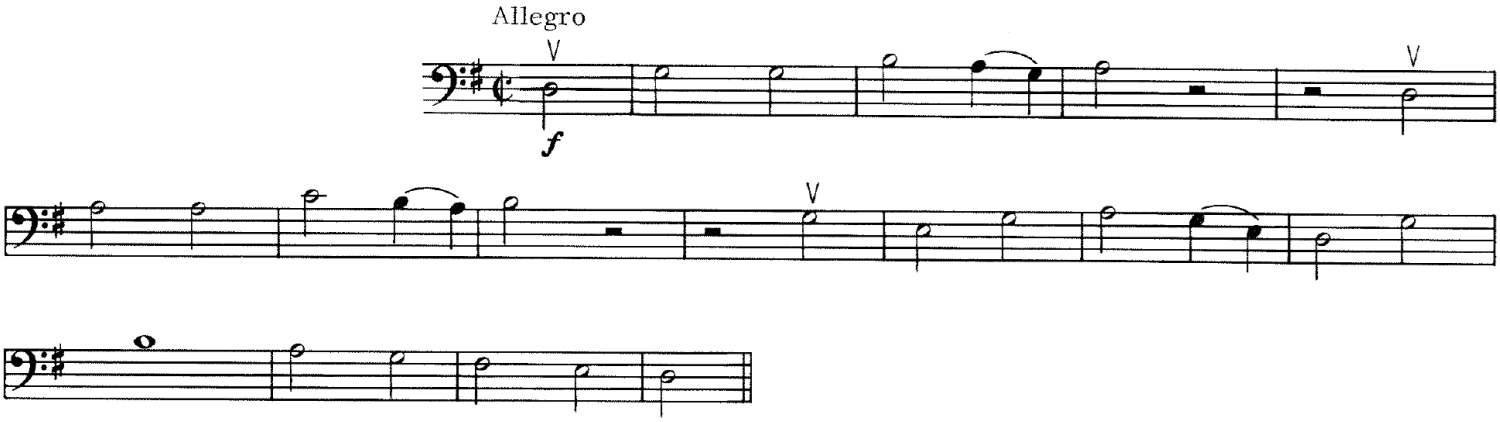


SOLO

- Your choice - 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied

EXCERPT

Siennicki - *Scherzo*, Reh. D - Reh. F
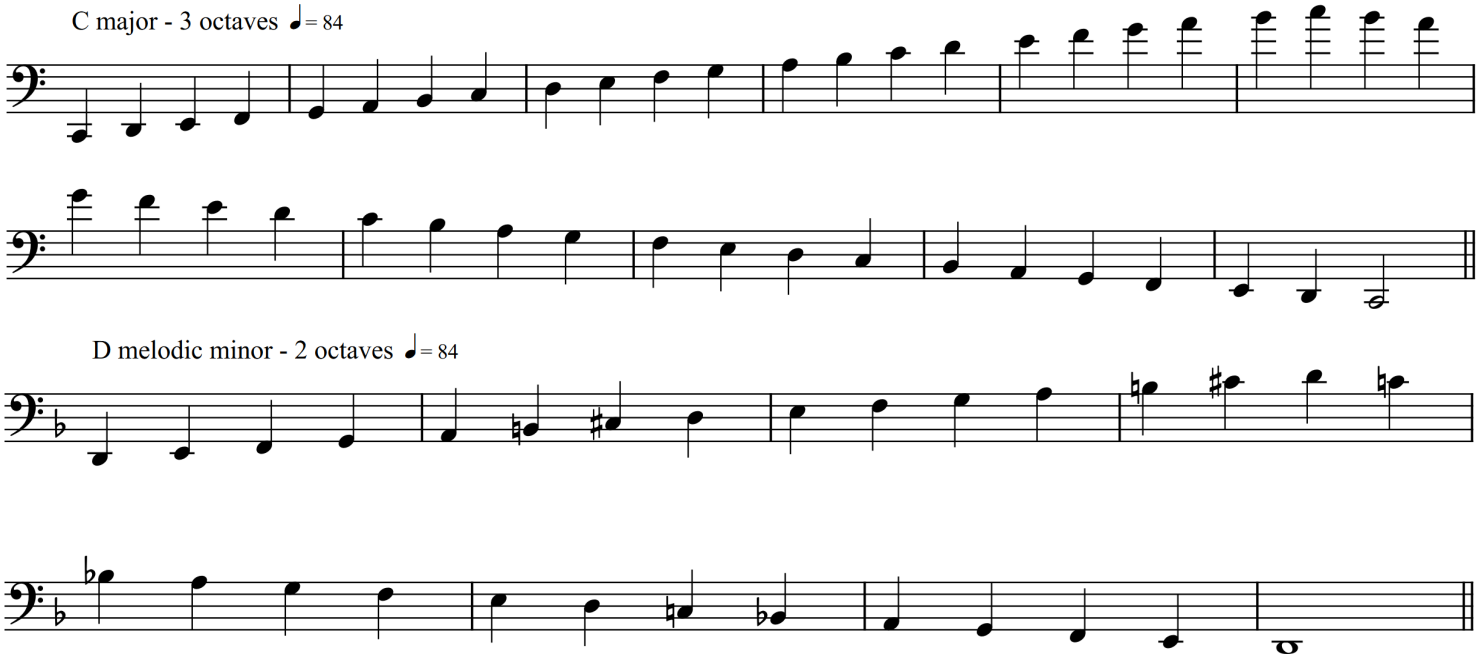


CELLO - Sinfonia East & West and Concertino East & West

Music includes shifting to 3rd or 4th position and keys through three sharps and flats. Musicians should have beginning use of vibrato. Prepare and record the following requirements if they accurately represent your current skill level. Your chosen audition level doesn't guarantee or limit your orchestra placement.

SCALES

- Scales may be performed with any articulation.

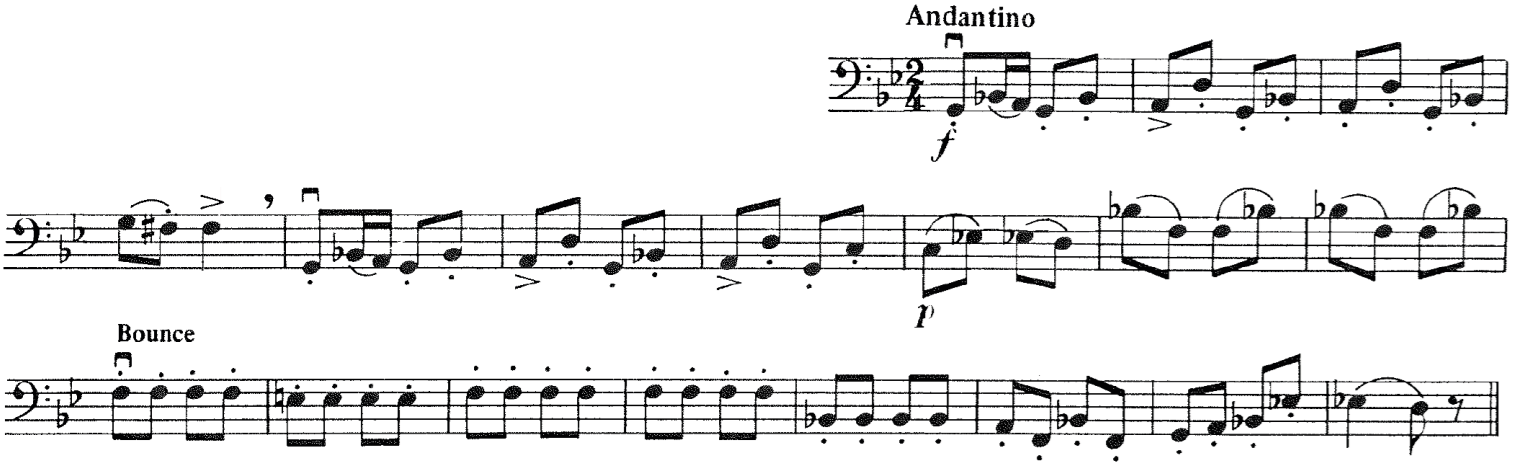


SOLO

- Your choice - 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied
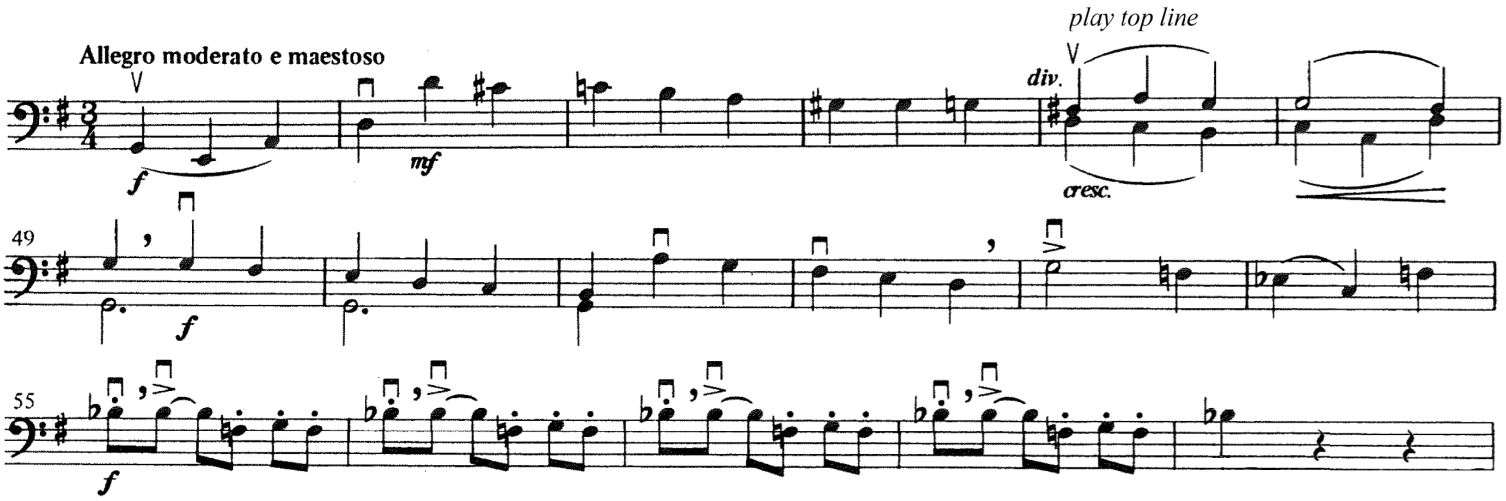
EXCERPTS

Schubert, arr. Dackow - *Rosamunde Suite No. 1*, Reh. B - Reh. D



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Rimsky-Korsakov, arr. Dackow - *Slava*, Reh. G - Reh. J



CELLO - Camerata orchestras and Concert Orchestra

Musicians should be comfortable in higher positions, have continuous vibrato and varied articulations, have good sight-reading skills, and experience in advanced key signatures. Prepare and record the following requirements if they accurately represent your current skill level. Your chosen audition level doesn't guarantee or limit your orchestra placement.

SCALES
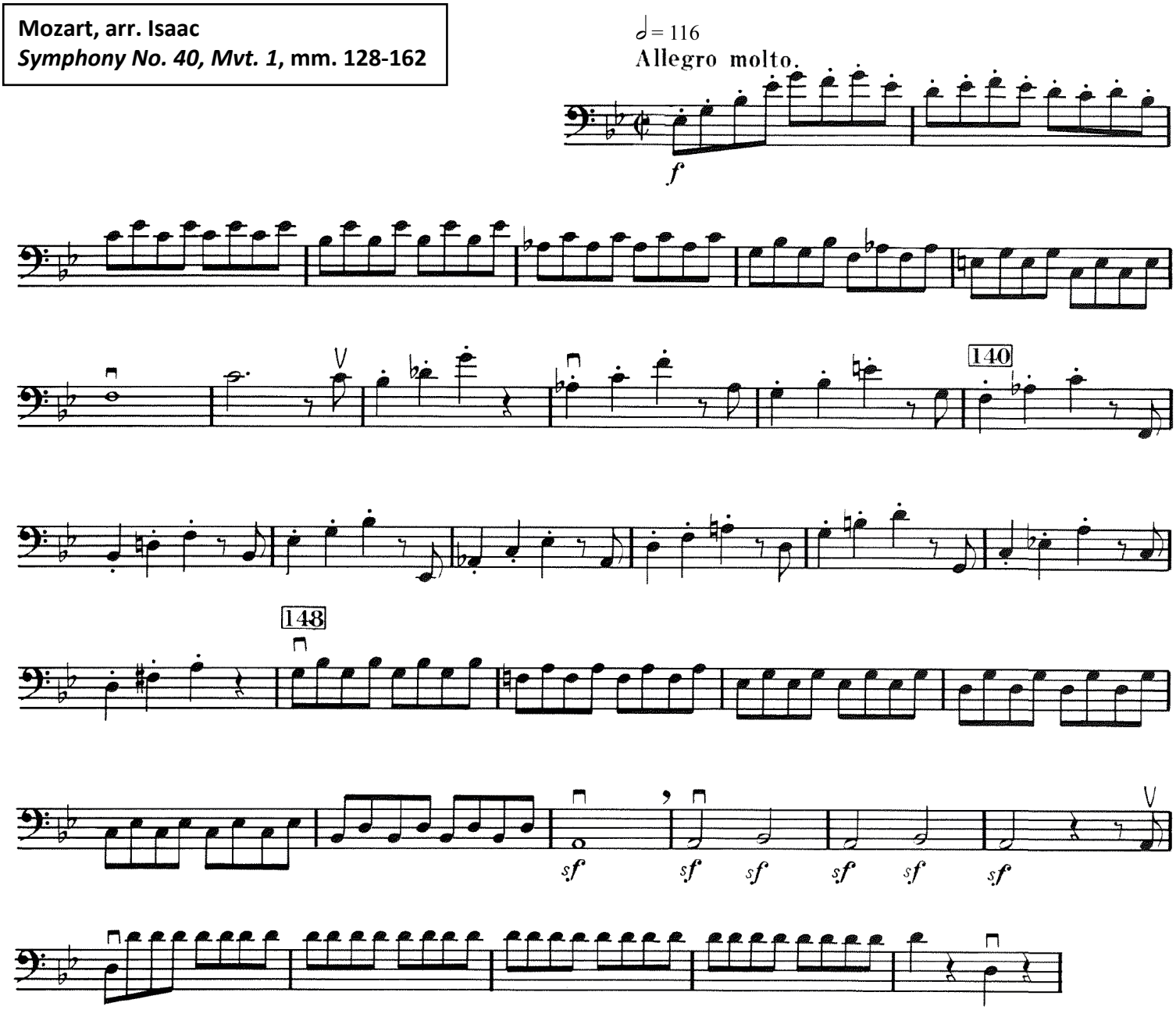
- D major - 3 octaves; separate bows in quarter notes with vibrato (quarter note = 112)
- C melodic minor - 3 octaves; separate bows in quarter notes with vibrato (quarter note = 112)

SOLO

- Your choice - 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied

EXCERPTS

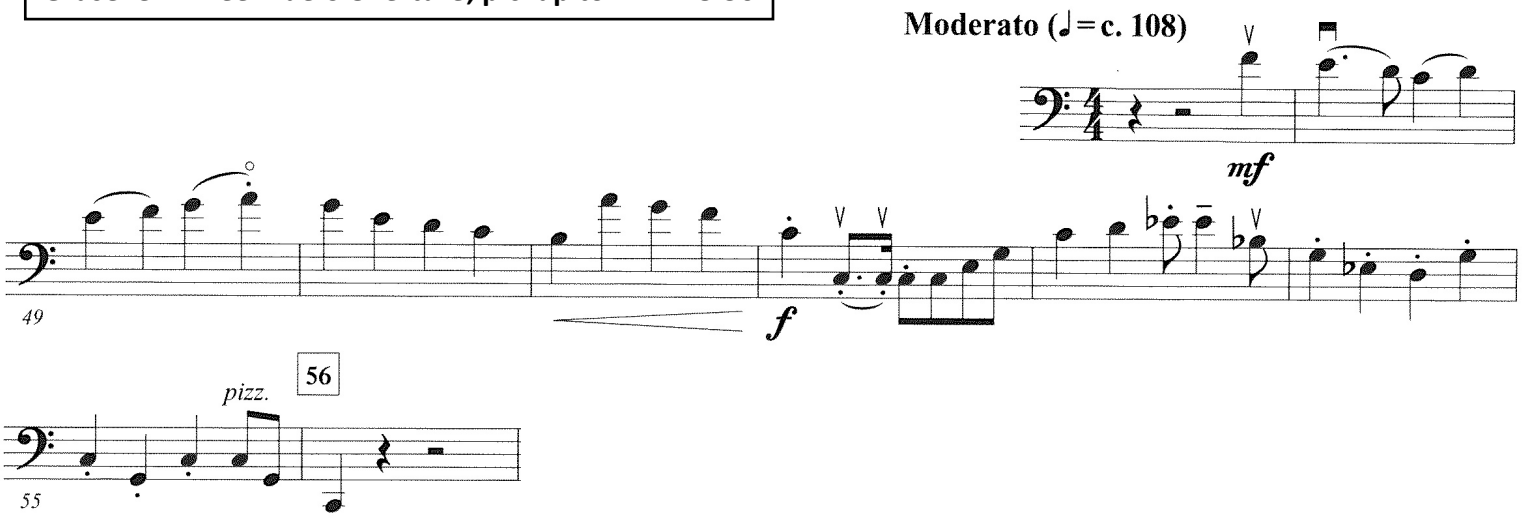
Mozart, arr. Isaac
***Symphony No. 40, Mvt. 1*, mm. 128-162**



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

CELLO - Camerata orchestras and Concert Orchestra (continued)

Gruselle - *Three Riders Overture*, pickup to mm. 48-56



CELLO - Philharmonic and Symphony

Musicians should be skilled in all major and minor keys as well as advanced positions and bow technique. Prepare and record the following requirements if they accurately represent your current skill level. Your chosen audition level doesn't guarantee or limit your orchestra placement.

SCALES
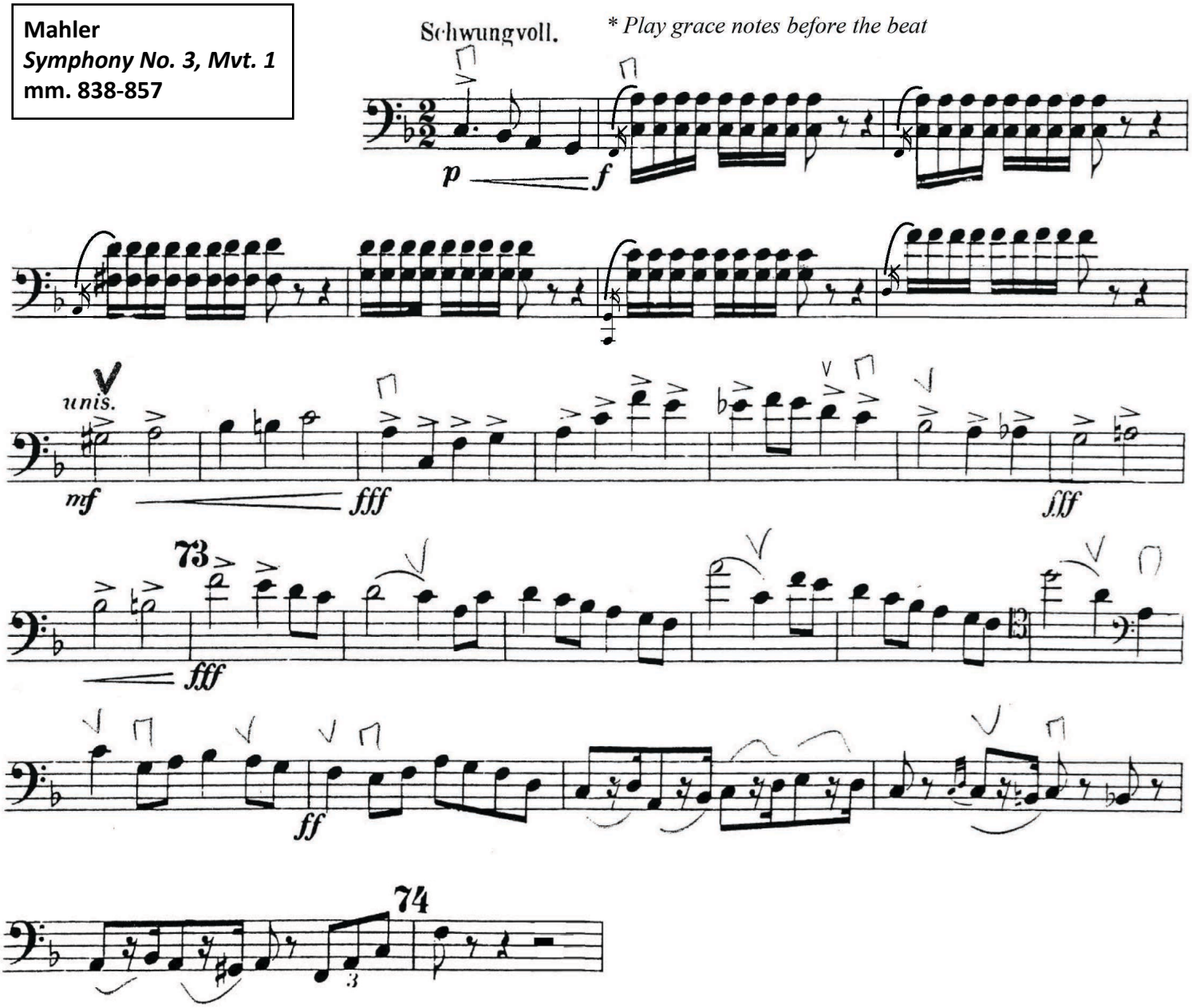
- C-sharp major - 4 octaves; separate bows in eighth notes (quarter note = 84)
- F melodic minor - 3 octaves; separate bows in eighth notes (quarter note = 84)

SOLO

- Your choice - 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied
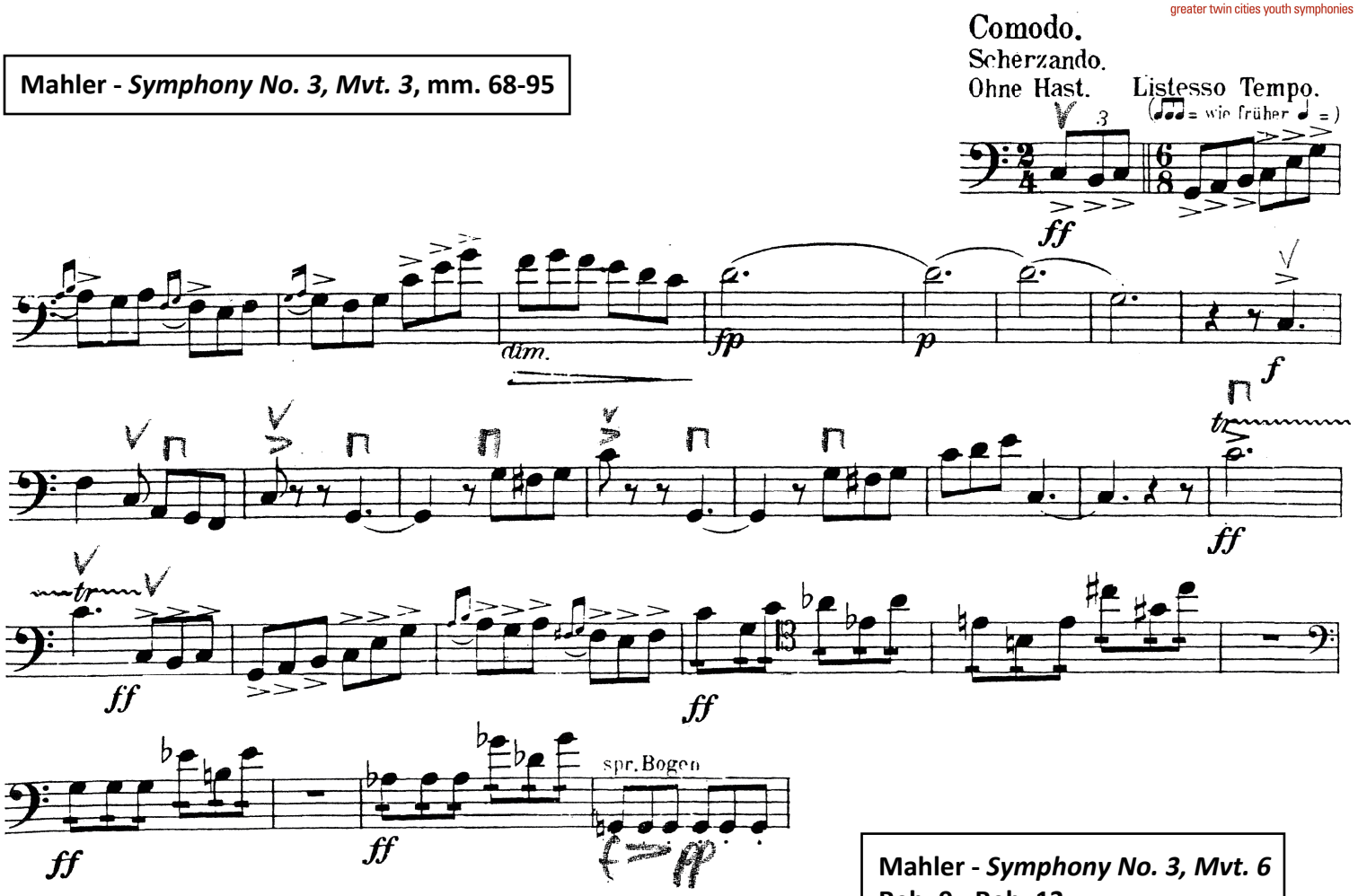
EXCERPTS

Mahler
Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 1
mm. 838-857

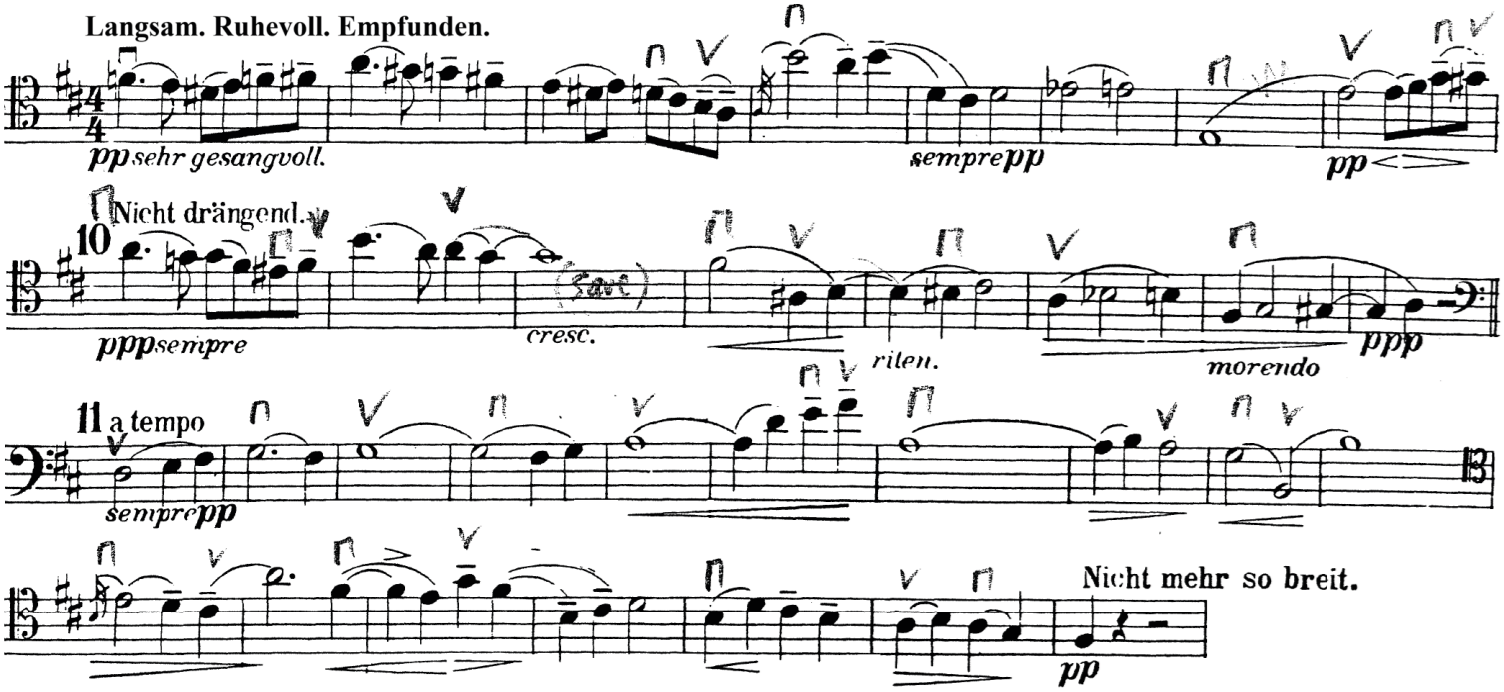


EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Mahler - *Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 3*, mm. 68-95



Mahler - *Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 6*
Reh. 9 - Reh. 13



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Mahler - *Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 6*, pickup to mm. 276-284

