

# 2023-24 Audition Guidelines: HARP



- Auditions for the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS - pronounced git-seez) are opportunities to play your instrument so we can get to know you and place you with one of our 10 incredible school-year orchestras!
- Please contact us at [info@gtcys.org](mailto:info@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](https://gtcys.org/auditions).
2. Decide which audition level to prepare. **Pick one level** based on your abilities and experience - click on individual orchestra names below for more information about each group or visit [gtcys.org/programs/orchestras](https://gtcys.org/programs/orchestras).
  - **Philharmonia East and West** strings only - no winds
  - **Sinfonia East and West / Concertino East and West** all instruments - developing
  - **Camerata / Concert Orchestra** all instruments - advancing
  - **Philharmonic / Symphony** all instruments - most advanced
3. Practice, practice, practice!
4. **Record your audition video in one take** and submit it online by **Wednesday, May 24, 2023**.
5. See [gtcys.org/auditions](https://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).

### 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](https://gtcys.org/auditions).
- Previous participation in GTCYS does not guarantee placement and **all placements are final**.

# HARP - Sinfonia and Concertino

Musicians should have playing experience through three sharps and flats. Music in these orchestras sometimes includes dedicated harp parts; adapted piano or string parts will be provided for pieces that do not include harp. To audition for one of these orchestras, please prepare and record the following:

## SCALES

- G major - 2 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)
- G minor - 2 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)

## SOLO

- your choice - 3 minutes or less

## EXCERPTS

Mahler -  
Symphony No. 1, Mvt. III

Feierlich und gemessen, ohne zu schleppen (♩ = 72 )



Mahler - Symphony No. 1, Mvt. III

Feierlich und gemessen, ohne zu schleppen (♩ = 72 )



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Sehr einfach und schlicht, wie eine Volksweise



# HARP - Camerata and Concert Orchestra

Musicians should be comfortable in advanced key signatures. Music in these orchestras sometimes includes dedicated harp parts; adapted piano or string parts will be provided for pieces that do not include harp. To audition for one of these orchestras, please prepare and record the following:

## SCALES

- D major - 3 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 100)
- B-flat minor - 3 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 100)

## SOLO

- your choice - 3 minutes or less

## EXCERPTS

Franck - Symphony in D minor, Mvt. II

### **Allegretto.**

musical score for Franck - Symphony in D minor, Mvt. II, Allegretto. The score is in D minor (three flats) and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of piano and harp parts. The first system starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The second system includes mezzo-forte (mf) and piano (p) dynamics. The third system ends with a section marked 'A' and a decrescendo (dim.) dynamic.

Franck - Symphony in D minor, Mvt. III

### **All<sup>o</sup> non troppo.**

musical score for Franck - Symphony in D minor, Mvt. III, All<sup>o</sup> non troppo. The score is in D major (two sharps) and common time (C). It consists of two systems of piano and harp parts. The first system starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The second system includes a section marked '2'.

# HARP - Philharmonic and Symphony

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

## SCALES

- G-flat major - 3 octaves (hands together) in eighth notes (quarter note = 60)
- A-flat minor - 3 octaves (hands together) in eighth notes (quarter note = 60)

## SOLO

- your choice - 3 minutes or less

## EXCERPTS

Tchaikovsky - *Swan Lake, Scene 1*

### Moderato

mf

EXCERPT #2 ON  
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# HARP - Philharmonic and Symphony (continued)

Tchaikovsky - Romeo and Juliet

Allegro giusto.

The musical score is written for Harp and consists of four systems. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The first system begins with a 'J' (Jazz) articulation and a dynamic of *p* (piano). The second system features a dynamic of *pp* (pianissimo) and includes a section marked with a dashed line and the number '8'. The third system also features a dynamic of *pp*. The fourth system includes first and second endings, marked with '1' and '2' respectively. The score is written in a grand staff format with a treble and bass clef.