2024-25 Audition Guidelines: HARP

 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!



greater twin cities youth symphonies

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.

Skill Levels	Strings Audition Levels	Winds, Brass, and Percussion Audition Levels
Beginning skills	Philharmonia East & West	Sinfonia East & West
Developing skills	Sinfonia East & West / Concertino East & West	Concertino East & West
Advanced skills	Camerata orchestras / Concert Orchestra	Camerata orchestras / Concert Orchestra
Most advanced skills	Philharmonic / Symphony	Philharmonic / Symphony

- 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.

HARP - Sinfonia East & West

Musicians should have playing experience through two 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:



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SCALES

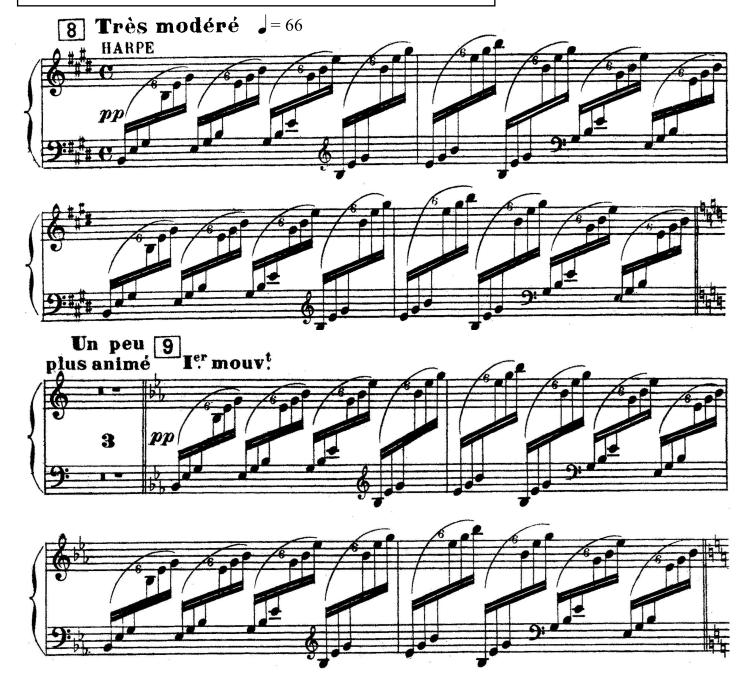
- G major 2 octaves (hands separate) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)
- G minor 2 octaves (hands separate) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)

SOLO

• Your choice - 3 minutes or less

EXCERPTS

Debussy - Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune, Reh 8 - 4 mm. after Reh 9



HARP - Concertino East & West

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:



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SCALES

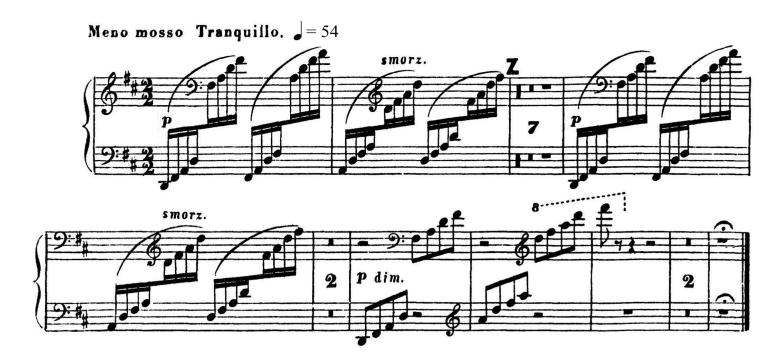
- G major 2 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)
- G minor 2 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)

SOLO

• Your choice - 3 minutes or less

EXCERPTS

Mussorgsky, ed. Rimsky-Korsakov - Night on Bald Mountain, Reh Y - end



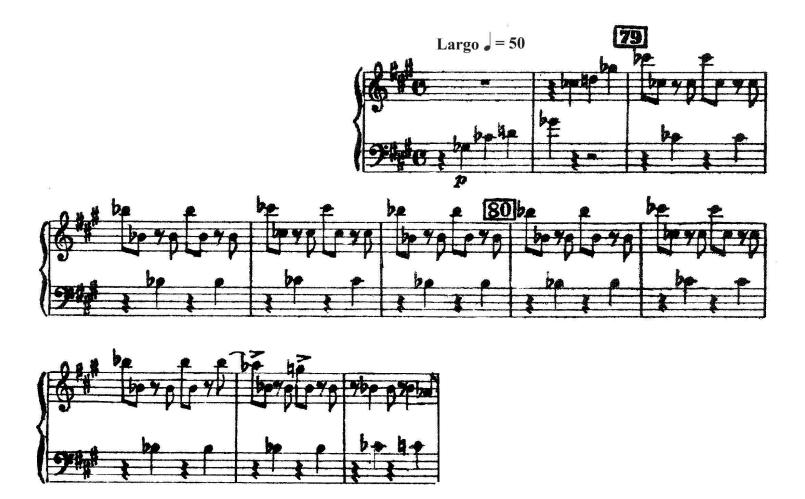
EXCERPT #2 ON NEXT PAGE

HARP - Concertino East & West (continued)



Shostakovich - Symphony No. 5, Mvt. III, 2 mm. before Reh 79 - Reh 81





HARP - Camerata orchestras 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 greater twin cities youth symphonies prepare and record the following:



SCALES

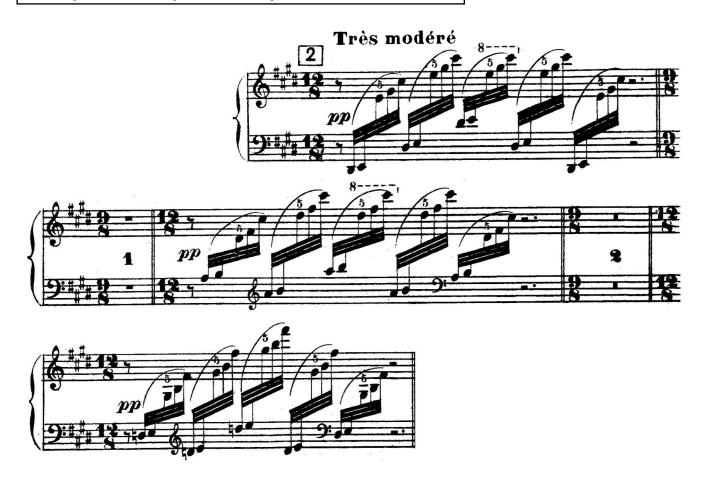
- D major 3 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 100)
- B-flat minor 3 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 100)

SOLO

Your choice - 3 minutes or less

EXCERPTS

Debussy - Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune, first 6 mm. of Reh 2



EXCERPT #2 ON NEXT PAGE

HARP - Camerata orchestras and Concert Orchestra (continued)



Debussy - La Mer, 2 mm. before Reh 40 - end

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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:



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SCALES

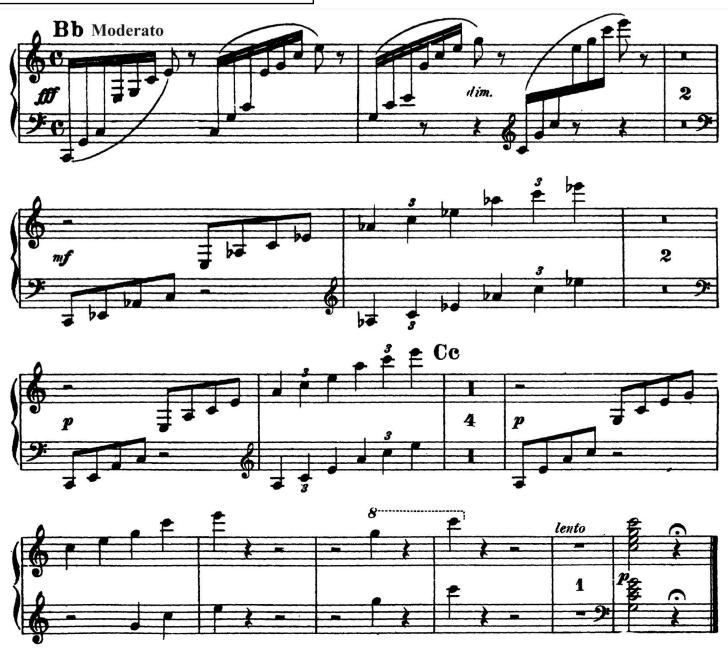
- G-flat major 3 octaves (hands together) in eighth notes (quarter note = 60)
- A-flat melodic minor 3 octaves (hands together) in eighth notes (quarter note = 60)

SOLO

Your choice - 3 minutes or less

EXCERPTS

Strauss - Death and Transfiguration, Bb - end



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

HARP - Philharmonic and Symphony (continued)



Rimsky-Korsakov - Scheherazade, Mvt. II, first 13 mm. of Reh Q



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE



Strauss - Don Juan, Reh M to Reh N

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