

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!
- 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:

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

8 Très modéré ♩ = 66
HARPE

Un peu plus animé **9** 1^{er} mouv.
3

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:

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

Meno mosso Tranquillo. ♩ = 54

EXCERPT #2 ON NEXT PAGE

HARP - Concertino East & West (continued)

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

Largo ♩ = 50

79

80

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 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

Très modéré

2

1

2

EXCERPT #2 ON NEXT PAGE

HARP - Camerata orchestras and Concert Orchestra (continued)



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

greater twin cities youth symphonies

Très animé

40

1

pp

41

1

pp

2

42

à 2

pp

2

pp

1° Solo

ppp

1

pp

ppp

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 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

Bb Moderato

dim.

mf

p

lento

p

EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

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

Con moto ma poco meno mosso

The image displays a musical score for Harp, consisting of two systems of staves. The first system contains measures 1 through 10, and the second system contains measures 11 through 13. The music is written in 3/8 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo marking 'Con moto ma poco meno mosso' is positioned above the first system. The score begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The notation includes various chords, single notes, and rests, with some measures featuring accents (>) and slurs. The final measure of the second system ends with a double bar line and two eighth notes.

EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

HARP - Philharmonic and Symphony (continued)

Strauss - *Don Juan*, Reh M to Reh N

molto vivace ma tranquillo

The musical score is written for Harp in G major, 3/4 time. It consists of five systems of music, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The first system begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The second system ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third system begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The fourth system is marked *poco cal. atempo* and contains a first ending bracket labeled '1' with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fifth system is marked *N molto tranquillo* and contains a first ending bracket labeled '1' with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The score features various musical notations including chords, single notes, and slurs.