2026-27 Audition Guidelines: PERCUSSION

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.** Harp and percussion players may record in separate takes but must submit one single video.
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

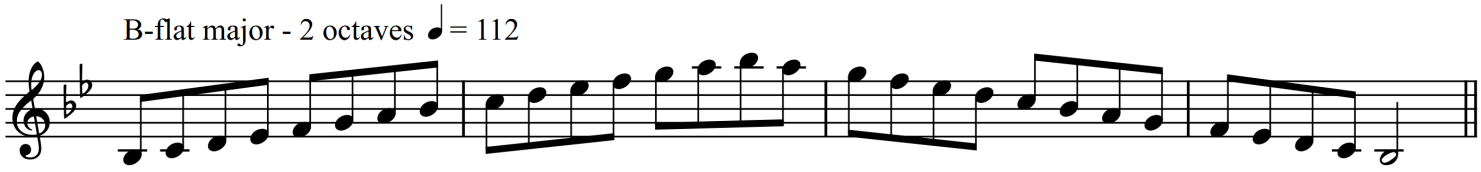
Find detailed instructions, tips, frequently asked questions, and tuition assistance information at gtcys.org/auditions. Contact us at mail@gtcys.org or call 651.602.6800 with questions.

PERCUSSION - Sinfonia East & West

Musicians should have playing experience through two sharps and flats. 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. Recordings can be done in separate takes in order to change instruments.

SCALES

- Can be performed on practice bell kit, bells, xylophone, or marimba (no piano)





SOLO

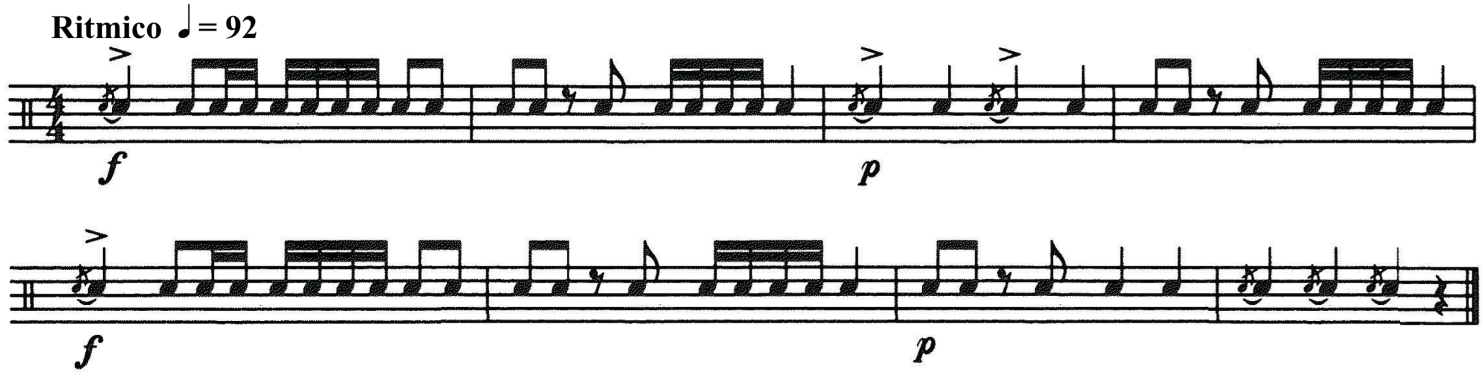
- Your choice, any instrumentation (no piano); total time of 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied

EXCERPTS

Mallets (practice bell kit, bells, xylophone, or marimba) — King - *The More We Get Together*



Snare Drum — *Rudiment*



PERCUSSION - Concertino East & West

Musicians should be comfortable playing through three sharps and flats. 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. Recordings can be done in separate takes in order to change instruments.

SCALES

- Can be performed on practice bell kit, bells, xylophone, or marimba (no piano)

A-flat major - 2 octaves ♩= 126



B minor - 2 octaves ♩= 126



SOLO

- Your choice, any instrumentation (no piano); total time of 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied

EXCERPTS

Mallets **(practice bell kit, bells, xylophone, or marimba)** **Purcell - *Ayre***

Andante ♩= 120



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Snare Drum — Rothman - *Etude No. 45*



Shaker — Rothman - *Etude No. 16*

- Use one or two matching shakers of any kind that can clearly articulate dynamics and rhythms.



PERCUSSION - Camerata orchestras and Concert Orchestra

Musicians should have playing experience through four sharps and flats and have good sight-reading skills. 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. Recordings can be done in separate takes in order to change instruments.

Instrument expectations: It's strongly recommended that, if you don't own the instrument(s) being asked for, you ask your teacher to borrow or record on their equipment.

SCALES (can be performed on bells, xylophone, or marimba - no practice bell kits)

- A major - 2 octaves in eighth notes (quarter note = 152)
- G harmonic minor - 2 octaves in eighth notes (quarter note = 152)

SOLO

- Your choice, any instrumentation (no piano or drumset); total time of 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied
- The solo should feature your artistic and technical strengths. Please choose a piece that has a variety of dynamics, articulations, and expressive challenges.

EXCERPTS

Snare Drum

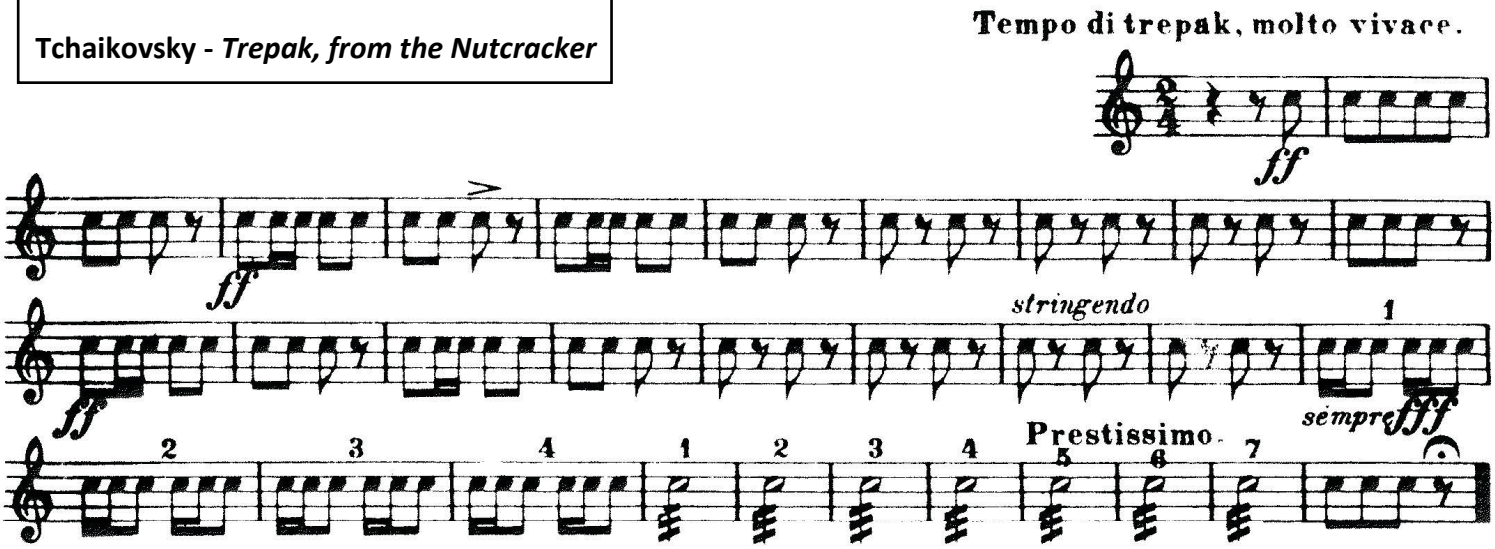
Peters - *Intermediate Snare Drum Studies, Etude No. 13*, mm. 17-32



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Tambourine

Tchaikovsky - *Trepak, from the Nutcracker*



Mallets (bells, xylophone, or marimba) *High Ranch*



PERCUSSION - Philharmonic and Symphony

Musicians should have playing experience in all major and minor keys and have excellent sight-reading skills. 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. Recordings can be done in separate takes in order to change instruments.

Instrument expectations: It's strongly recommended that, if you don't own the instrument(s) being asked for, you ask your teacher to borrow or record on their equipment.

SCALES (can be performed on bells, xylophone, or marimba - no practice bell kits)

- A minor - 2 octaves in sixteenth notes (quarter note = 138)
- G-flat melodic minor - 2 octaves in sixteenth notes (quarter note = 90)

SOLO

- Your choice, any instrumentation (no piano or drumset); total time of 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied
- The solo should feature your artistic and technical strengths. Please choose a piece that has a variety of dynamics, articulations, and expressive challenges.

EXCERPTS

Bass Drum Mahler - *Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 1*, mm. 667-673

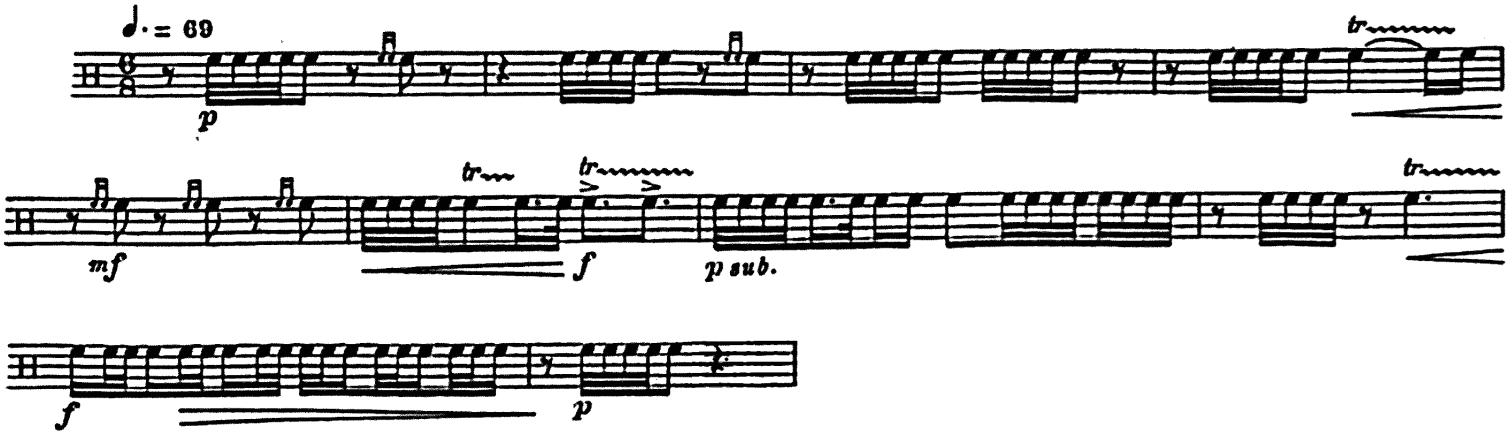


Snare Drum Mahler - *Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 1*, mm. 634-642



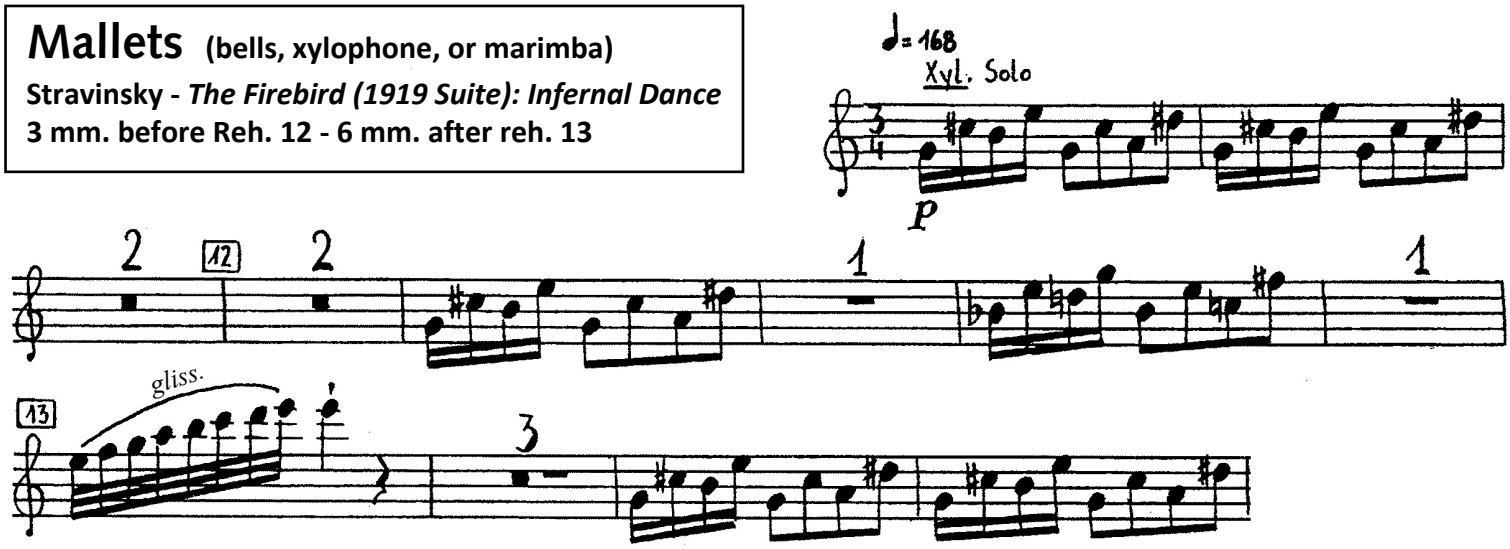
EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Snare Drum Delecluse - *Twelve Studies for Snare Drum, No. 9*, opening - m. 10



Mallets (bells, xylophone, or marimba)

Stravinsky - *The Firebird (1919 Suite): Infernal Dance*
3 mm. before Reh. 12 - 6 mm. after reh. 13



Timpani Beethoven - *Symphony No. 9, Mvt. 1*, mm. 387-413



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

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greater twin cities youth symphonies

Mallets (bells, xylophone, or marimba)

Bach - *Cello Suite No. 5 in C Minor: Prelude*, mm. 27-63

Instructions:

- Please prepare this excerpt with the following metronome marking as a GUIDE:

Dotted quarter= 63 BPM (8th note= 190)

- This excerpt should be performed with ***four mallets,*** on the lowest octave available on your mallet instrument.

