



AUDITION INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

For the EYSO 2011-12 Concert Season

About the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra

EYSO is comprised of 6 ensembles and the Chamber Music Institute (CMI), each with their own requirements:

- **Primo Orchestra:** training string ensemble for beginning players with little auditioning experience
- **Prelude Orchestra:** string orchestra for beginning to early intermediate level students
- **Sinfonia:** full orchestra for intermediate level students
- **Philharmonia:** full orchestra for advanced students
- **Youth Symphony:** full orchestra for advanced students
- **Brass Choir:** includes brass musicians in Youth Symphony, Philharmonia, and additional strong brass students
- **Chamber Music Institute** (open to both EYSO and non-EYSO members at Prelude Orchestra level and up): provides an opportunity to work closely with professional coaches in groups of 3-5 students. A CMI audition is required if not auditioning for a large ensemble. All candidates must fill out the EYSO online application in addition to the CMI Application (which will be posted soon at www.eyso.org).

Respective requirements for each ensemble are on the next page. *Please observe the minimum age and/or grade requirements for each ensemble.*

The Audition Application

EYSO Audition Applications and Scheduling can be completed online at www.eyso.org. After submitting an online application to audition, you will be able to select a specific audition time. There is a \$35 audition fee for current EYSO members and a \$45 audition fee for non-EYSO members. All auditions fees are non-refundable. The audition fee may be paid online by credit card. Checks (payable to EYSO) should be mailed with an online payment voucher **OR** with a completed paper audition application (you will be contacted regarding an audition time) to:

Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 6508, Elgin, IL 60121-6508

Double check your assigned audition time to make sure your calendar is clear. We understand that schedules change and things happen—we will gladly alter an audition time before May 25. After May 25, you will be charged an additional \$25 for changing audition times.

What to Prepare

1. Solo Repertoire

Prepare two contrasting selections totaling 2-3 minutes: one should be faster and more technical in nature to demonstrate your facility on the instrument and the other should be slower and more lyrical to illustrate your musicality and expressivity. Selections may include solo literature, etudes or appropriate orchestral excerpts. Choose these selections carefully with guidance from your instrumental teacher, as they must show your abilities on the instrument. Selections that are beyond or beneath your skill level will not enhance your audition results. Selections do not need to be memorized. *No accompanist is required. **Please bring (2) photocopies of each piece for the adjudicators' reference.*** Harp and piano players are requested to call the main office (847-841-7700) for audition requirements.

2. Scales

Every audition will include a demonstration of your knowledge of scales. For specific information, see the requirements on the following page.

3. Sight reading

Every audition will include appropriate-level sight reading of rhythms and orchestral excerpts.

The Day of Your Audition

Please arrive at Elgin Community College Visual and Performing Arts Center at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled time. You will register at the check-in desk, receive your audition room assignment, and have a chance to warm-up. Your audition will be approximately ten minutes in length.

Acceptance and placement results from June 1-5 auditions will be mailed the week of June 26, 2010.



The Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra is an In-Residence Ensemble at the ECC Arts Center

Student placement in EYSO ensembles is competitive and ranked in order of artistic quality. Those qualities include: superiority of tone, technical ability, intonation, vibrato, dynamic contrast, range, articulation, musicality, phrasing, rhythmic skill, artistic expression, style, and overall accuracy. Meeting the requirements of an orchestra does not guarantee placement.

Beginning and Intermediate Orchestra Requirements*

Ensemble Name	Primo Orchestra	Prelude Orchestra	Sinfonia
Membership	Training string ensemble for beginning players with little auditioning experience	String orchestra for beginning to early intermediate level students	Intermediate level full orchestra
Focus	Build basic orchestral playing skills, audition techniques and string techniques	Refine basic orchestral playing skills and string techniques	Perform challenging repertoire; provide first experience of full symphony orchestra with winds, brass, and percussion
Rehearsal Time	Sundays - 4:00 – 5:00 pm	Sundays - 4:30 – 6:00 pm	Sundays - 3:15 – 5:15 pm
Minimum Age by June 1	9 years old	10 years old	11 years old
Grades (Fall 2011)	Grades 4-8	Grades 5-8	Grade 6 & up (strings); Grades 8 & up (others)
Playing Level	Suzuki Book 2	Suzuki Book 3	Suzuki Book 4 and up (strings)
Scales	Major scales - 2 octaves – D, G and C	Major scales - 2 octaves - up to 3 sharps and 3 flats	Strings: Major scales - 2 octaves - up to 3 sharps and 3 flats (by memory preferred) Winds, Brass & Percussion: All scales up through 4 sharps and 4 flats (if possible), chromatic scale from lowest to highest comfortable notes, no transposition or advanced clef reading required.
Violin and Viola Requirements	Minimum of 2 years playing the auditioning instrument	Shift comfortably, play and read in 3 rd position	Shift comfortably, play and read in 3 rd position Experience shifting to 5 th position
Cello and Bass Requirements	Minimum of 2 years playing the auditioning instrument	Shift comfortably, play and read in 3 rd and 4 th positions	Shift comfortably, play and read in 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th positions (bass-also 5 th position)

* Includes Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass students with a minimum of 2 years playing the auditioning instrument

Advanced Orchestra** and Brass Choir*** Requirements

Ensemble Name	Philharmonia	Brass Choir	Youth Symphony
Membership	Full orchestra for intermediate and advanced students	Philharmonia and Youth Symphony brass players and additional strong brass players	Full orchestra for advanced students
Rehearsal Time	Sundays - 3:30 – 5:30 pm	Sundays - 5:35 – 6:35 pm	Sundays - 6:15 – 9:00 pm
Grades (Fall 2011)	Grade 6 & up (strings) Grade 8 & up (percussion) Grade 9 & up (brass and woodwinds)	Grade 8 & up (brass)	Grade 9 & up (all instruments)
Playing Level (Strings)	Shift comfortably, play and read in all positions (including thumb for cello and bass)		Shift comfortably, play and read in all positions (including thumb for cello and bass)
Playing Level (Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion)	Read all clefs pertaining to instrument Typically among top musicians in school's music program	Read all clefs pertaining to instrument Typically among top musicians in school's music program	Read all clefs pertaining to instrument Typically among top musicians in school's music program
Scales	Strings - all major scales - 2 octaves minimum, 3 when possible (by memory preferred) Brass and Woodwinds – same as Brass Choir Percussionists – major and minor scales – 2 octaves (by memory preferred)	Chromatic scale plus all major scales (by memory preferred) Start on lowest comfortable note and play to highest comfortable note	Strings - all major and minor scales - 3 octaves (by memory preferred) Brass and Woodwinds – same as Brass Choir Percussionists – major and minor scales – 2 octaves (by memory preferred)
Specific Instrument Requirements	Viola - comfortable reading treble clef Cello - comfortable reading tenor clef Flutes – have piccolo experience Oboes – have English horn experience Horns and Trumpets – should have sight transposition experience Percussionists – comfortable with full range of concert percussion, timpani (including tuning) and mallets; expected to audition on four timpani, snare drum, xylophone and marimba (all provided); must bring own mallets and may bring own snare; piano experience is a plus		Strings – demonstrate varied bowing styles, both on and off-the-string (spiccato) Flutes – have piccolo experience Oboes – have English horn experience

** Includes Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Percussion, Harp and Piano students

*** Includes French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba and Percussion students