

# **Audition & Membership Requirements 2025-26**

# **STRINGS**

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

### Primo

Entry-level string ensemble for grades 4-8.

# Membership Requirements

- ✓ Age 9-13 by Sept. 1
- ✓ Entering grade 4-8
- ✓ Minimum 2 years playing the instrument
- ✓ Suzuki Book 2-3 or equivalent

#### For Your Audition

- ♪ Required excerpt: click to download for violin, viola, cello, and bass
- ♪ Scales: D, G & C major, 2 octaves; A, F & Bb major, 1 octave
- ♪ Solo repertoire: 1 piece\*
- ♪ Sight reading



Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestras is an In-Residence Ensemble at the ECC Arts Center.

## **Prelude**

Early-intermediate string orchestra for grades 5-9.

# **Membership Requirements**

- ✓ Age 10-14 by Sept. 1
- ✓ Entering grade 5-9
- ✓ Violin & viola: shift comfortably, play and read in 3<sup>rd</sup> position
- ✓ Cello & bass: shift comfortably, play and read in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> position
- ✓ Suzuki Book 3-4 or equivalent

#### **For Your Audition**

- ♪ Required excerpt: click to download for violin, viola, cello, and bass
- ♪ Scales:
- All: C, G, D, A, F & Bb major, 2 octaves
- Violin: G major, 3 oct.
- Viola & cello: C major, 3 octaves
- ♪ Solo repertoire: 1 piece\*
- ♪ Sight reading

# **Sinfonia**

Intermediate full orchestra for middle and high school strings, winds, brass, and percussion.

#### **Membership Requirements**

- ✓ Entering grade 6 & up
- ✓ Violin & viola: shift comfortably, play and read in 3<sup>rd</sup> position; experience shifting to 5<sup>th</sup> position
- ✓ Cello: shift comfortably, play and read in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> position
- $\checkmark$  Bass: shift comfortably, play and read in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> pos.

#### **For Your Audition**

- Required excerpt: click to download for violin, viola, cello, and bass
- ♪ Scales: by memory preferred
- Violin: G, A, C & D major, 3 octaves; G, A, C & D melodic minor. 2 octaves
- Viola & cello: C, D, F & G major,
   3 octaves; C, D, F & G melodic
   minor, 2 octaves
- Bass: (all 2 octaves) F, G & A major; F, G & A melodic minor
- ♪ Solo repertoire: 1 piece\*
- ♪ Sight reading

# **Philharmonia**

Advanced full orchestra for middle and high school strings, winds, brass, and percussion.

## **Membership Requirements**

- ✓ Entering grade 6 & up
- ✓ Shift comfortably, play and read in all positions (cello & bass: includes thumb position)
- ✓ Viola: comfortable reading treble clef
- ✓ Cello: comfortable reading tenor clef

#### **For Your Audition**

- Required excerpt: click to download for violin, viola, cello, and bass
- ♪ Scales: major scales up to 4 sharps/flats; C & G melodic minor by memory preferred; refer to ILMEA Senior Scales
  - · Violin, viola, cello: 3 oct.
  - · Bass: 2 octaves
- ♪ Solo repertoire: 1 piece\*
- ♪ Sight reading

# **Youth Symphony**

Advanced full orchestra for high school and collegeage strings, winds, brass, and percussion.

#### **Membership Requirements**

- ✓ Entering grade 9 & up
- ✓ Shift comfortably, play and read in all positions (cello & bass: includes thumb position)
- ✓ Demonstrate varied bowing styles, both on and off the string (spiccato)

#### For Your Audition

- ♪ Scales: all major & minor scales by memory preferred
- Violin, viola, cello: 3 oct.
- · Bass: 2 octaves
- ♪ Solo repertoire: 2 contrasting selections\*
- ♪ Sight reading

\*For **solo repertoire**, selections may include solo literature, etudes, or appropriate orchestral excerpts, approximately 2-3 minutes each in length. If two selections are from the same concerto, different movements are suggested. Please choose selections carefully, with guidance from your private instructor, to show the full range of your ability. Selections 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.** Not sure what to play for your audition? Email office@evso.org and we'll be happy to help.



# **Audition & Membership Requirements 2025-26**

Sinfonia: Intermediate full orchestra for middle and high school strings, winds, brass, and percussion.

Philharmonia: Advanced full orchestra for middle and high school strings, winds, brass, and percussion.

Youth Symphony: Advanced full orchestra for high school and college-age strings, winds, brass, and percussion.

# **WINDS & BRASS**

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba

# Sinfonia.

#### **Membership Requirements**

- ✓ Entering grade 8 & up
- ✓ Minimum 2 years playing the instrument
- √ No transposition or advanced clef reading required

#### For Your Audition

- ♪ Scales: concert C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D, A & E major; chromatic scale from lowest to highest comfortable notes by memory preferred
- ♪ Solo repertoire: 2 contrasting selections\*
- ♪ Sight reading

# Philharmonia & Youth Symphony

#### **Membership Requirements**

- ✓ Entering grade 9 & up
- ✓ Read all clefs pertaining to instrument
- ✓ Flute: piccolo experience recommended
- √ Oboe: English horn experience recommended
- ✓ Horn & trumpet: sight transposition experience recommended

### For Your Audition

- ♪ Scales: all major scales, 2 octaves when possible; chromatic scale from lowest to highest comfortable notes by memory preferred
- ♪ Solo repertoire: 2 contrasting selections\*
- ♪ Sight reading

# **PERCUSSION**

# Sinfonia & Philharmonia

# **Membership Requirements**

- ✓ Entering grade 8 & up
- ✓ Minimum 2 years playing the instruments
- ✓ Comfortable playing percussion accessories (tambourine, triangle, cymbals, etc.)

#### **For Your Audition**

- ♪ Scales: major & natural minor scales up to 4 sharps/flats, 2 octaves; chromatic scale, 1 octave see optional scales sheet
- ♪ Solo repertoire\*:
- 1. Snare piece,
- 2. 2-mallet piece, and
- 3. Timpani piece (2, 3 or 4 drums)
- ♪ Sight reading

# **Youth Symphony**

# Membership Requirements

- ✓ Entering grade 9 & up
- ✓ Comfortable playing with 4 mallets

#### For Your Audition

- ♪ Scales: all major & minor scales, 2 octaves; chromatic scale, full length of xylophone see optional scales sheet
- ♪ Solo repertoire\*:
  - 1. Snare piece,
- 2. 4-mallet\*\* piece, and
- 3. Timpani piece (2, 3 or 4 drums)
- ♪ Sight reading

# **PIANO & HARP**

# Sinfonia, Philharmonia & Youth Symphony

#### **Membership Requirements**

- ✓ Entering grade 9 & up
- ✓ Some previous ensemble experience preferred

#### For Your Audition

- ♪ Scales (piano only): All major & minor scales, 4 octaves
- ♪ Solo repertoire: 2-3 contrasting selections\*
- ♪ Sight reading



Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestras is an In-Residence Ensemble at the ECC Arts Center.

Timpani, snare drum, and xylophone/marimba/vibes are provided. Please bring your own sticks & mallets.

All Sinfonia & Philharmonia flute players are automatically enrolled in **Flute Choir** in addition to orchestra.

All brass players (horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba) are automatically enrolled in **Brass Choir** in addition to orchestra.

All percussionists are automatically enrolled in **Percussion Ensemble** in addition to orchestra.

\*See bottom of page 1 for **solo repertoire** guidance. Not sure what to play for your audition? Email office@eyso.org and we'll be happy to help.

\*\*4-mallet solo suggestions: Yellow After the Rain by Mitchell Peters, Monograph IV by Richard Gipson, Oakland by Mark Ford.