



AUDITION INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS 2018-19 SEASON

About the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra

EYSO is 8 ensembles and the Chamber Music Institute (CMI), each with their own requirements:

- **Primo:** our entry level preparatory orchestra for string players
- **Prelude:** string orchestra for early intermediate level students
- **Sinfonia:** full orchestra for intermediate level students
- **Philharmonia:** full orchestra for advanced students
- **Youth Symphony:** full orchestra for very advanced students
- **Brass Choir:** automatic membership for brass players in Youth Symphony & Philharmonia; Sinfonia, by invitation only
- **Percussion Ensembles:** Sinfonia/Philharmonia & Youth Symphony, automatic membership for all EYSO percussionists
- **Chamber Music Institute** (open to both EYSO and non-EYSO members at Prelude level and up): provides an opportunity to work closely with professional coaches in groups of 3-5, or more students. An audition for the CMI is required if not auditioning for a large ensemble. Chamber Ensemble assignments will be made in the fall.

Audition requirements for all ensembles include a minimum of (2) years playing the auditioning instrument

Student Placement Philosophy

Student placement in EYSO is based on both playing ability and age. Students are ranked by audition and placed in the orchestra most closely matching their musical level, including quality of tone production, technical facility, range on the instrument, intonation, vibrato, dynamic range, articulation, phrasing, rhythmic integrity, expressive style, and overall accuracy. *Meeting the printed requirements of an orchestra does not guarantee placement.*

Audition Application

EYSO audition applications and scheduling are online at EYSO.org. Applications will be accepted beginning on February 1, 2018. 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 audition fees are non-refundable.**

What to Prepare

1. Solo Repertoire

Primo through Philharmonia STRINGS candidates, prepare one piece of solo repertoire (this should be your most well prepared and polished piece to date) and the Required Excerpts, available on EYSO.org February 1, 2018.

Youth Symphony STRINGS, WIND & BRASS and Sinfonia, Philharmonia WIND & BRASS candidates 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.

All candidates, selections may include solo literature, etudes, or appropriate orchestral excerpts (if the two selections are from the same concerto, two 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.

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 several appropriate-level sight-reading examples.

The Day of Your Audition

Please arrive at Elgin Community College Arts Center at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled time. You will register at the check-in table, receive your audition room assignment, and have a chance to warm-up. Your audition will be approximately 8-10 minutes in length.



Arts Center

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

Entry Level and Intermediate Orchestra Requirements

Ensemble Name	Primo Orchestra	Prelude Orchestra	Sinfonia
Membership	Entry level preparatory orchestra for string players	String orchestra for early intermediate level students	Full orchestra for intermediate level students
Focus	Build orchestral playing skills, audition, and string playing techniques	Refine orchestral playing skills, and string playing 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, 2018	9 years old	10 years old	11 years old
Grade Level (Fall 2017)	Grades 4 - 8	Grades 5 - 9	Grade 6 & up (strings); Grades 8 & up (winds brass & percussion)
Playing Level (Strings)	Suzuki Book 2-3 or equivalent	Suzuki Book 3-4 or equivalent	Beyond Suzuki Book 4 or equivalent
Scales	Major scales 2 octaves – D, G, and C 1 octave – A, F, and B flat	Major scales – 2 octaves up to 3 sharps and 3 flats Violin – 3 octave G scale Viola & Cello – 3 octave C scale	Strings –all major scales up to 3 sharps and 3 flats – 2 octaves minimum, 3 octaves preferred Violin – 3 octave G scale required Viola & Cello – 3 octave C scale required Bass – 2 octaves only (by memory preferred) Brass & Woodwinds – 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	A minimum of two years playing the 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	A minimum of two years playing the 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) Cello – experience reading tenor clef

Advanced Orchestra* and Brass Choir** Requirements

Ensemble Name	Philharmonia	Brass Choir	Youth Symphony
Membership	Full orchestra for advanced students	Philharmonia and Youth Symphony brass students, Sinfonia brass students by invitation	Full orchestra for very advanced students
Rehearsal Time	Sundays - 3:30 – 5:30 pm	Sundays - 5:35 – 6:35 pm	Sundays - 6:15 – 9:00 pm
Grade Level (Fall 2016)	Grade 6 & up (strings, including harp) 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)	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 up to 4 sharps and 2 flats plus C & G melodic minor (see Senior ILMEA scale sheet for reference, available on EYSO.org) by memory preferred Brass & Woodwinds – same as Brass Choir	Chromatic scale (start on lowest comfortable note and play to highest comfortable note) plus all major scales, 2 octaves when possible (by memory preferred)	Strings all major and minor scales, 3 octaves (by memory preferred) Bass all major and minor scales, 2 octaves (by memory preferred) Brass & Woodwinds – same as Brass Choir
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.		Strings – demonstrate varied bowing styles, both on and off-the-string (spiccato) Flutes – have piccolo experience Oboes – have English horn experience

Percussion Requirements Sinfonia, Philharmonia, Youth Symphony	Please prepare all of the following: 1. Snare solo 2. Mallet solo 3. All major/minor scales, 2 octaves, by memory preferred 4. Timpani solo (2, 3, or 4 timpani). You will be asked to tune the timpani. Xylophone, marimba, or vibes are provided. Students must bring their own mallets and may bring their own snare. Piano experience is a plus.
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* Includes Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Percussion, Harp, and Piano .

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