

Charleston County School of the Arts

ADMISSIONS SCREENING PROCEDURES - String/Orchestra Entrance Audition



Program Expectations

In the School of the Arts Orchestras, string majors learn the technical and musical skills they will need to be successful in a university level orchestra. This includes the study of classical technique—how we hold and manipulate the instrument to produce the desired sounds—as well as an understanding of rhythm, pitch, tone, articulation, style, dynamics, phrasing, and more. Students are also encouraged to create their own music and learn to use the correct terminology when listening to and discussing their own music and the performances of others.

The success of the orchestras depends in part upon balanced numbers of violins, violas, cellos and basses. Students and parents must be aware that instrumentation needs are considered when accepting students. In middle school, there is often more need for viola, cello and especially string bass. In high school there continues to be openings in violin, viola and string bass. For this reason, students should let directors know if they are interested in switching to an instrument that the program needs.

Audition Expectations

In their audition students will be asked to demonstrate their musical and performance ability on their instrument. We look closely at how well they hold and play the instrument with good technique, and we also look for good pitch accuracy, tone and articulation, and accurate rhythms at a musical tempo. Students demonstrate these skills by performing two scales, a solo and sight-reading. The minimum requirements are listed below, however students who are able to play more challenging scales and solos are encouraged to do so, but only if they can play the harder repertoire well.

Scales should be played in tune with excellent hand position and tone using long, full bows, and at a consistent tempo at approximately quarter = 40. Solos should be performed in tune, with excellent hand position and tone at the correct musical tempo. To demonstrate their sight reading ability, students will be asked to look at a sight reading exercise for 30 seconds and then play it back on their instrument demonstrating correct pitch, rhythms and bowings.

Audition Requirements

Students may play solos or scales that are more difficult than these minimum requirements.

- 6th Grade: A) Two, one-octave major scales of student's choice, B) Any solo from Suzuki Book One
- 7th Grade: A) Two, two-octave major scales of student's choice B) Any solo from Suzuki Book 2
- 8th Grade: A) Two, octave G, C and F major scales B) Any solo from Suzuki Book 3
- 9th Grade: A) Two, three-octave major scales of student's choice B) Any solo from Suzuki Book 4
- 10th Grade: A) Two, three-octave minor scales of student's choice B) Any solo from Suzuki Book 5
- 11th Grade: A) Two, three-octave minor scales of the student's choice B) A solo from Suzuki Book 6

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