

Audition & Membership Requirements 2026-27

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**

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 3rd position
- ✓ Cello & bass: shift comfortably, play and read in 3rd and 4th 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 3rd position; experience shifting to 5th position
- ✓ Cello: shift comfortably, play and read in 2nd, 3rd, & 4th pos.
- ✓ Bass: shift comfortably, play and read in 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th pos.

For Your Audition

♪ **Required excerpts:** click to download for [violin](#), [viola](#), [cello](#), and [bass](#)

Scales:

- 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 excerpts:** 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 college 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**



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

*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@eyso.org and we'll be happy to help.

Rev. 1/29/2026

Audition & Membership Requirements 2026-27

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.

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. Flutists interested in playing piccolo in orchestra and/or Flute Choir, please perform one of your selections on piccolo. Not sure what to play for your audition? Email office@eysos.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.