Auditions Requirements

- Auditions are open by appointment to all students ages 18 and under and take place at the beginning of each semester, or at other times as arranged with the Youth Orchestra Director.
- Auditions are usually held at Artspace Community Arts Center, 15 Mill Street, Greenfield.
- To register for an audition, visit pvsoc.org/youth-orchestra or email youth@pvso.org.
- The audition fee is $20 (cash or check only), which is applied to the tuition balance when a student is accepted.
- Musicians should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to audition time in order to have their instrument ready, tuned and warmed up.

In addition to the audition requirements below, all musicians should expect to sight-read a short excerpt.

Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello & Double Bass)
All string players should be able to demonstrate knowledge of shifting, legato, and ability to play off the string.
String players should prepare:

1) One major & one minor scale – two octaves.
2) One major arpeggio – two octaves.
3) A solo, or excerpt from a solo, of your choice.

*Cello Players: Should know, or be willing to learn, tenor clef.
*Viola Players: Should know, or be willing to learn, treble clef.

Woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon)
Woodwind players should prepare:

1) Three scales – 2 major, 1 minor.
2) A chromatic scale played within the range designated below, slurred in eighth note triplets.
   *Flute C-C, 3 octaves; Oboe C-C, 2 octaves; Bassoon Bb-Bb, 2 octaves; Clarinet E-E, 3 octaves; Bass Clarinet E-E, 2 octaves
3) A solo of your choice.

If you play an auxiliary instrument such as piccolo, bass clarinet, contrabassoon, or saxophone, please let us know at the audition.

Brass (Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba)
Brass players should prepare:

1) Two scales – major or minor, two octaves.
2) A chromatic scale played within the range designated below, slurred in eighth note triplets.
   *Trumpet C-C, 2 octaves; French Horn G-G, 2 octaves; Trombone/Tuba F-F, 2 octaves
3) Solo of your choice.
Harp
Harpists should have access to or own a full range orchestral harp as required by repertoire. PVSYO will not be able to supply a harp. Harpists should prepare:

1) One solo work of your choice.
2) One standard orchestral excerpt (consult with your teacher).

Percussion
The PVSYO is auditioning all standard percussion instruments: timpani, snare drum, cymbals, bass drum and xylophone. We also occasionally use drum set.

Percussionists may audition for one specific percussion instrument, but knowledge of multiple instruments is desirable and preferred. Please consult with your teacher and/or ensemble director to select the best piece for your audition. If you have any questions regarding percussion auditions, please do not hesitate to contact us at youth@pvso.org. At the audition we will have timpani, snare drum, bass drum, crash cymbals and xylophone. Percussionists should bring their own mallets.

All percussion candidates should pick a solo piece of their choice on either a mallet instrument, snare drum or timpani, showing your best abilities. Percussionists will be asked to perform the following:

**Snare Drum**: Rudimental roll, orchestral roll, flams & paradiddles.
**Cymbal**: Crashes, varying dynamics & tempos.
**Mallet Instrument**: 2-octave major, minor, and chromatic scales. Arpeggios are optional.
**Timpani**: Long Roll, ppp to fff. Interval tuning to 4ths, 5ths and 3rds.

Piano/Keyboard
The PVSYO is currently auditioning orchestral pianists, but pianists should be aware that orchestral music only infrequently calls for piano (about 10% of the time). Consequently, the PVSYO most often uses pianists for auxiliary keyboard and percussion parts, such as xylophone, glockenspiel, cymbals, bass drum, etc. Pianists willing and interested in contributing in this way are encouraged to audition. *Two introductory percussion lessons will be provided.* NB: Membership in the PVSYO also allows for the opportunity to participate in our chamber music groups, which allow for significant piano parts. For auditions, pianists should prepare:

1) Standard scales and arpeggios in all the major and minor keys.
2) Solo selection of your choice.

To register for upcoming auditions, visit pvsoc.org/youth-orchestra or email youth@pvso.org