

South Carolina Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Program: **Digital Auditions for the 2020/2021 Season**

Thank you for auditioning for the SC Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Program! We are excited that you are interested in joining or continuing with our program!

Why Digital Auditions?

With the current public health crisis, we feel that it is best for the safety of our students, families, and staff to have digital auditions instead of face-to-face auditions.

Do I Still Need to Sign-Up for an Audition Time?

Yes, please still sign-up for an audition on the website. The purpose of signing up for an “audition time” is to give us a master list of who is auditioning for us to cross reference with digital auditions we’ve received. If you have already signed-up for a time, you do not need to sign-up again, just submit your digital audition. If you have not yet signed-up for a time, please do so as soon as possible BEFORE submitting your digital audition. The date and time you sign up for does not matter because everyone will submit a digital audition.

What’s In This Document?

To help you the best we can, we have compiled this document to hopefully walk you through the process and answer any questions you might have. *Please read through this document carefully as we take you through step-by-step.*

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The deadline to submit your audition is Friday, September 4.

What If I Need Help Learning the Material?

We understand that receiving direct instruction from their orchestra/band directors or private teachers may be limited over the summer and at the beginning of the school year. To help students learn the required audition material, videos and recordings of the orchestral excerpts for Concert and Symphonic Orchestras have been made available on our website at sphilharmonic.com/youth. Philharmonic students are encouraged to find YouTube recordings of their excerpts, which are professional orchestral excerpts.

What If I Am Confused About This Process?

We have created a how-to video that will walk you through the process of creating your videos, completing online registration, and submitting your audition. This video can be found on our website or by going to <https://tinyurl.com/DigitalAuditionsHowToVideo> .

What If I Have Questions or Problems with Submission?

Just as students are new to the world of virtual learning, we as conductors are new to the world of virtual teaching. With that being said, we understand there may be some hiccups along the way. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this process as we are all new to virtual education.

If you have any questions or concerns not addressed in this document, contact the following people:

Questions/concerns about the Youth Orchestra program: Judy Lawrence at
judy@scphilharmonic.com

Questions/concerns regarding digital audition: Meredith Tashkandi at meredith@scphilharmonic.com
or Nathan Tucker at nathan@scphilharmonic.com.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing your audition!

Neil Casey, SCPYO Music Director, Youth Philharmonic Conductor

Carson Coomes, Prelude Orchestra Conductor

Meredith Tashkandi, Concert Orchestra Conductor

Nathan Tucker, Symphonic Orchestra Conductor

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Which Group Should I Audition For?

String Auditions

The conductors take numerous factors into consideration when placing students in an appropriate group, including technical ability, experience, maturity level, and instrumentation of the orchestras. Students will be placed where their talents and abilities will be nurtured and will best serve the Youth Orchestra Program.

Please refer to the chart below to determine which group to audition for based on your current ability level.

Group	Average Experience	Fingerboard Knowledge	Music Reading	Other Considerations
Prelude	1-2 years	Know all four finger patterns on all four strings in 1st position	Can read music for all strings in 1st position	Maturity level also taken into consideration
Concert	3-4 years	Shift to lower positions, such as ½, II, III, and IV	Can read music for all strings in multiple positions	Increasing technical demands and practice dedication
Symphonic	5-6 years	Shift to upper positions, such as V, VI, and VII	Violins: numerous ledger lines above staff Violas: treble clef Cello/Bass: tenor clef	<i>Private lessons recommended to help with difficult technique needed for repertoire</i>
Philharmonic	6+ years	Shift to highest positions (past VII for violins/violas and thumb position for cello/bass)	Violins: numerous ledger lines above staff Violas: treble clef Cello/Bass: tenor and treble clefs	<i>Private lessons highly recommended. Students not taking private lessons may greatly struggle with technical demands of repertoire</i>

Which Group Should I Audition For?

Winds/Percussion Auditions

There are a set number of winds and percussion spots in the Symphonic Orchestra and Youth Philharmonic. Winds/percussion spots will be awarded to deserving students on a first-come, first-serve basis. When the spots have been filled, students may get placed in another group, placed on a waitlist, or will be asked to audition again next year.

Typical Instrumentation for Each Group:

4 flutes	5 horns	3 percussionists
3 oboes	3 trumpets	
3-4 clarinets	3 trombones	
3 bassoons	1 tuba	

*Note for percussionists: **ALL** percussionists need to be proficient on mallets, timpani, snare, and auxiliary. Percussionists need to know how to tune the timpani and read both rhythm and pitch. Percussionists are expected to bring their mallets to rehearsal each week.

Please refer to the chart below to determine which group to audition for based on your current ability level.

Group	Average Experience	Technique	Music Reading	Transpositions	Other Considerations
Symphonic	3-4 years	Comfortable with all scales for SCBDA All-State Clinic Band auditions	Percussionists need both rhythm <i>and</i> pitch reading skills	Horn: Should be somewhat experienced or willing to learn transposition. Double horn highly recommended.	<i>Private lessons recommended to help with difficult technique needed for repertoire</i>
Philharmonic	5+ years	Comfortable with all scales for SCBDA All-State Senior Band auditions	Trombone and Bassoon need to read tenor clef. Percussionists should use multiple mallets per hand reading pitches.	Clarinets, Horns, and Trumpets need to transpose parts and/or provide instruments in alternative keys. C Trumpet and A Clarinet highly recommended.	<i>Private lessons <u>highly</u> recommended. Students not taking private lessons may greatly struggle with technical demands of repertoire</i>

String Audition Requirements

Prelude Orchestra Audition Requirements

Scale Requirement: any scale of choice, one quarter note per scale degree, quarter note = 80

Solo Requirement: prepare a solo piece of choice that will showcase your technique, musicality, and overall playing ability. If you do not have a solo piece, you can use a piece of concert music from your orchestra class that showcases your ability

Required Orchestral Excerpts: none

Concert Orchestra Audition Requirements

Scale Requirement: required two octave scales, one quarter note per scale degree, quarter note = 80

Violin: D major two octave scale AND A melodic minor two octave scale

Viola/Cello: G major two octave scale AND D melodic minor two octave scale

Bass: G major two octave scale AND D melodic minor one octave scale

Solo Requirement: prepare a solo piece of choice that will showcase your technique, musicality, and overall playing ability. If you do not have a solo piece, you can use a piece of concert music from your orchestra class that showcases your ability

Required Orchestral Excerpts: required excerpts found at scphilharmonic.com/youth

Symphonic Orchestra Audition Requirements

Scale Requirement: required two octave scales, one quarter note per scale degree, quarter note = 80

Violin: F major two octave scale AND D melodic minor two octave scale

Viola/Cello: Bb major two octave scale AND G melodic minor two octave scale

Bass: C major two octave scale AND E melodic minor one octave scale

Solo Requirement: prepare a solo piece of choice that will showcase your technique, musicality, and overall playing ability. If you do not have a solo piece, you can use a piece of concert music from your orchestra class that showcases your ability

Required Orchestral Excerpts: required excerpts found at scphilharmonic.com/youth

Youth Philharmonic Audition Requirements

Scale Requirement: required three octave scales, one quarter note per scale degree, quarter note=80

All instruments: ***Choose ONE major and ONE minor scale from the following:***

C major three octave, C melodic minor three octave

G major three octave, G melodic minor three octave

D major three octave, D melodic minor three octave

Solo Requirement: prepare a solo piece of choice that will showcase your technique, musicality, and overall playing ability. If you do not have a solo piece, you can use a piece of concert music from your orchestra class that showcases your ability

Required Orchestral Excerpts: required excerpts found at scphilharmonic.com/youth

Winds/Percussion Audition Requirements

Symphonic Orchestra Audition Requirements

Scale Requirement:

Winds: Choose **ONE two octave scale** from the SCBDA All-State Clinic Band Audition scales (<https://tinyurl.com/ClinicBandScales>)

Difficulty level of scale will be considered

Percussion: Choose **ONE two octave scale** from the SCBDA All-State Clinic Band Audition scales (<https://tinyurl.com/PercussionRequirements>)

Difficulty level of scale will be considered

If you do not have access to a mallet instrument or timpani, please refer to the last page of this document entitled "Special Considerations"

Solo Requirement: prepare a solo piece of choice that will showcase your technique, musicality, and overall playing ability. If you do not have a solo piece, you can use a piece of concert music from your band class that showcases your ability

Required Orchestral Excerpts: required excerpts found at sphilharmonic.com/youth

Youth Philharmonic Audition Requirements

Scale Requirement:

Winds: Flute/Clarinet/Bassoon: choose **ONE three octave scale** from the SCBDA All-State Senior Band Audition scales

All other winds: choose **ONE two octave scale** from the SCBDA All-State Senior Band Audition scales

Scales found at <https://tinyurl.com/SeniorBandScales>

Difficulty level of scale chosen will be considered

Percussion: Choose **ONE two octave scale** from the SCBDA All-State Senior Band Audition scales (<https://tinyurl.com/PercussionRequirements>)

Difficulty level of scale will be considered

If you do not have access to a mallet instrument or timpani, please refer to the last page of this document entitled "Special Considerations"

Solo Requirement: prepare a solo piece of choice that will showcase your technique, musicality, and overall playing ability. If you do not have a solo piece, you can use a piece of concert music from your band class that showcases your ability

Required Orchestral Excerpts: required excerpts found at sphilharmonic.com/youth

Recording Your Audition Material

Please follow these guidelines as you record your audition material:

1. Your auditions must be video recordings
2. Use the same device to record that you will use to complete and submit your Audition Registration Form (a computer is more user-friendly)
3. Both of your hands and your face need to be visible in the video recording
4. Record in a room that is well-lit and relatively quiet
5. ***Each segment of your audition needs to be a SEPARATE video recording***
 - a. Prelude Orchestra: 2 recordings (scale and solo)
 - b. Concert and Symphonic Orchestra: 3 recordings (scales, solo, and orchestral excerpt)
 - c. Philharmonic Orchestra: 5 recordings (scales, solo, and three orchestral excerpts)
6. At the beginning of ***each*** recording, please say the following clearly:
 - a. Your name
 - b. What group you are auditioning for
 - c. What you are about to play (for the solo piece, include the title and composer)
 - d. An example: “My name is Meredith Tashkandi, I am auditioning for Concert Orchestra, and I am playing the orchestral excerpt”
7. String auditions for Concert, Symphonic, and Philharmonic Orchestras need to ***record both scales in ONE video with a slight pause in between***. Please play your scales with one quarter note per pitch at 80 to limit the length and file size
8. ***Your solo piece should not exceed two minutes***. This is because of the file size limits for submission. If your solo is longer than two minutes, please pick a two minute section of your solo that best demonstrates your technical ability and musicality
9. A benefit of digital auditions versus live auditions is that you can record your audition videos as many times as you would like and choose the best take. We highly recommend taking advantage of that opportunity. Record multiple takes on different days, send recordings to your band/orchestra teacher for feedback, and determine which recordings demonstrate your abilities best
10. If you have questions regarding recording or technology, please contact Mrs. Tashkandi at meredith@scphilharmonic.com or Mr. Tucker at nathan@scphilharmonic.com.

Step-by-Step Guide for Submitting Your Digital Audition

Before you begin the process of filling out the Audition Registration Form:

- Have all recordings on the same device that you will use to complete the Audition Registration Form
- Have a list of musical accomplishments and respective years, including District Honors Orchestra/Band, Region Orchestra/Band, All-State Orchestra/Band, Solo and Ensemble superiors/excellents, section leader designations, private lessons, and other musical honors
- Both the student and a parent/guardian must be present when filling out the form as both are required to include a digital signature
- Determine if you have a Google or Google-affiliated email account

If you have a Google Account, follow these instructions:

1. Make sure all audition videos are on the device you plan to use to submit the Audition Registration Form. A computer is more user-friendly, though you can also use a phone
2. Complete the Audition Registration Form: <https://tinyurl.com/SCPYOFAfallDigitalAudition>
3. You will submit your videos on the last page of the Audition Registration Form. Please be sure to upload the videos to the correct place
4. DON'T FORGET TO CLICK SUBMIT SO WE RECEIVE YOUR SUBMISSION!
5. Check your email to find your return receipt for submitting the form. Do not delete this email until you have received your acceptance letter

If you do NOT have a Google Account, follow these instructions:

1. Make sure all audition videos are on the device you plan to use to submit the Audition Registration Form. A computer is more user-friendly, though you can also use a phone. If using a computer, rename each video as "LastnameFirstnameAuditionmaterial," such as "TashkandiMeredithScale" or "TashkandiMeredithExcerpt1"
2. Complete the Audition Registration Form: <https://tinyurl.com/SCPYOFAfallDigitalAudition>
3. You will submit your videos on the last page of the Audition Registration Form. Since you do not have a Google Account, you will not be able to submit videos by adding files to the form. Instead, you will click on the link at the top of the page, which will take you to a Shared Folder
 - a. Click on the folder of the group you are auditioning for
 - b. Upload your videos to the folder of the group you are auditioning for
 - c. PLEASE RENAME YOUR VIDEOS AFTER THEY HAVE UPLOADED TO THE FOLDER to "LastnameFirstnameAuditionmaterial," such as "TashkandiMeredithScale" or "TashkandiMeredithExcerpt1"
 - d. Once your uploads have completed and you've renamed your files, go back to the Audition Registration Form
4. CLICK SUBMIT SO WE RECEIVE YOUR SUBMISSION!
5. Check your email to find your return receipt for submitting the form. Do not delete this email until you have received your acceptance letter

Questions about the Audition Registration Form or submitting your videos?

Contact Mrs. Tashkandi at meredith@scphilharmonic.com or Mr. Tucker at nathan@scphilharmonic.com.

Special Considerations

We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone, and we will do our very best to accommodate special circumstances surrounding the public health crisis and the unique situations it creates. If your concern or question is not addressed in this section, please contact Judy Lawrence at judy@scphilharmonic.com

For percussionists that do not have access to a mallet instrument or timpani:

We understand that many of you may not have access to a mallet instrument or timpani during this time. If that is the case, please follow these guidelines:

Step 1: Entrance Audition on Snare Only

When you submit your entrance audition in the Fall, it will be on the snare drum only. If you do not have a snare drum, you can use a drum pad. Here are the requirements:

1. SCBDA Rudiments (<https://tinyurl.com/PercussionRequirements>)
 - a. Symphonic Orchestra: Clinic Band Rudiments
 - b. Philharmonic Orchestra: Senior Band Rudiments
2. Solo Snare Piece (this can include a past All-State solo)

If you do not have a solo piece, a marching/concert band piece can be used

3. The snare required orchestral excerpt for your desired group found at scphilharmonic.com

Step 2: Follow-Up Audition once you have access to mallet instruments and timpani

While your initial snare audition will “hold your place in line” since auditions are on a first-come, first-served basis, you will not be accepted until you complete a mallets and timpani audition. You will perform one of the required mallet scales and the remaining orchestral excerpts. Your acceptance will not be determined until you have completed this audition. Please communicate directly with the director of the group you are auditioning for.

For students that do not have a solo piece:

If you do not have a solo piece, that’s okay! You can use a piece from your band or orchestra class that you played on a previous concert. Be sure to choose a concert piece that demonstrates your technical and musical ability. If you are unsure of what to choose, contact the director of the group you are auditioning for.

For students that do not have access to technology to record/submit their audition:

After reading the information about how to record and submit your auditions, if you do not have the needed technology, then please contact the director of the group you are auditioning for to discuss options.

For students with out-of-tune instruments:

We understand that students haven’t been at school in weeks, so instruments (especially those of elementary and middle school students) may be out of tune. If you are unable to tune your instrument, please first contact your school band/orchestra teacher to see if they can talk you through the process. If it is very out-of-tune, please contact the director of the group you are auditioning for. We will determine if you can move forward with your Spring audition or if you should wait to audition in the Fall.

For students with broken instruments:

We understand that students haven’t been at school in weeks and the local repair shops are closed as non-essential businesses, so instruments may be broken. If your instrument is broken, please first contact your school band/orchestra teacher to determine the severity of the damage and see if there is a temporary fix. If it is severely damaged, please contact the director of the group you are auditioning for. We will determine if you can move forward with your Spring audition or if you should wait to audition in the Fall.