



Youth Symphony Audition

Dates: May 26 & 27, 2026

Location: The Temple for Performing Arts, 1011 Locust St Des Moines, IA 50309-2811

All auditions are performed without accompaniment.

STRINGS:

1. **Two Scales:** play 1 major scale and 1 minor scale (melodic or harmonic) with a minimum of 3 sharps or flats. Scales are to be performed ascending and descending.
 - Students may choose to play 2-octave or 3-octave scales depending on their skill level. Tempo is up to the student.
2. **Solo repertoire:** choose one piece or 2 contrasting selections from the same work.
 - The repertoire should show your highest level of achievement.
 - Total approximate duration of rep: 2-4 minutes.
3. **Excerpt:**
 - Prepare the excerpt provided for your instrument - see attached

STRING EXCERPTS

VIOLIN

Bernstein - Mambo from West Side Story

Play the entire excerpt (either top or bottom divisi line). Tempo: quarter note = 126

508

div. a2

cresc.

512

ff

520

ff

524

fff

532

dim.

536

540

VIOLA

Bernstein - Mambo from West Side Story
Play the entire excerpt. Tempo: quarter note = 126

Musical score for Viola, measures 420-430. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 420 is marked with a box containing the number 420. Measure 430 is marked with a box containing the number 430. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. A dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) is present below measure 430. The score concludes with the instruction "Shout: *ff*" and the lyrics "Mam - bo!" written below the staff.

SKIP TO m. 445

Musical score for Viola, measures 442-462. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 442 is marked with a box containing the number 442. Measure 445 is marked with a box containing the number 445 and the handwritten annotation "dolce". The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *ff* (fortissimo). The score concludes with a box containing the number 462.

CELLO

Bernstein - Mambo from West Side Story

Play the entire excerpt. Tempo: quarter note = 126

430

442

454

Shout: *ff*

Mam - bo!

mf *ff* Shout: Mam - bo!

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 430 through 454. It is written for a cello in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 430 is partially obscured by a black redaction box. Measure 442 features a 'Shout' instruction and the lyrics 'Mam - bo!'. Measure 454 also features a 'Shout' instruction and the lyrics 'Mam - bo!'. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo), *f* (forte), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and phrasing slurs.

SKIP TO m. 519

520

524

532

536

sfz *ff*

fff

ff *dim.* *fff* pizz. ^

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 520 through 536. It is written for a cello in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 520 has a dynamic marking of *sfz* (sforzando) and *ff*. Measure 524 has a dynamic marking of *fff* (fortississimo). Measure 532 has a dynamic marking of *dim.* (diminuendo). Measure 536 has a dynamic marking of *fff* and includes the instruction 'pizz.' (pizzicato) with an accent (^) over the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and phrasing slurs.

BASS

Beethoven - Symphony No. 5 in C minor, mvt. 1
Play the entire excerpt. Tempo: half note = 104

158 arco

170 *cresc.* *f*

184 *più forte* *f*

B

Detailed description: This block contains three staves of musical notation for the bass part, measures 158 to 184. The first staff (measures 158-169) features a continuous eighth-note pattern with a dynamic marking of *f* and a **B** above the final measure. The second staff (measures 170-183) begins with a *cresc.* marking and continues with eighth notes, including a *più forte* marking and a *f* dynamic. The third staff (measures 184) shows a continuation of the eighth-note pattern with various fingering numbers (2, 1, 2) and dynamic markings.

SKIP TO m. 411

411

423

438 *F* 2 2 2 4 *sf*

457 1 1

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation for the bass part, measures 411 to 457. The first staff (measures 411-422) consists of a steady eighth-note line. The second staff (measures 423-437) features a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking of *f*. The third staff (measures 438-456) includes a fortissimo (*F*) marking, fingering numbers (2, 2, 2, 4), and a *sf* marking. The fourth staff (measures 457) shows a melodic line with slurs and fingering numbers (1, 1).