DENVER
YOUNG ARTISTS
ORCHESTRA

colorado symphony
association affiliate

2023-2024

Harp Audition Packet

Orchestras

Young Artists Orchestra (YAO)

YAO, the most advanced of our ensembles, is composed of approximately 70 members and performs four to six concerts annually, including one side-by-side concert with the Colorado Symphony. Concerts are performed in venues such as Boettcher Concert Hall and Gates Concert Hall at The Newman Center. Students receive occasional coachings throughout the season and attend a weekend retreat in September. Recent repertoire includes Tchaikovsky: Symphony no. 4, Bernstein: *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, Stravinsky: *Firebird* Suite, and Beethoven: Symphony No. 9.

Placement in YAO is determined by audition. Membership is open to musicians between the ages of 12 and 23. YAO rehearses Saturday mornings from 9:00am-12:30pm at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music (2344 E Iliff Ave, Denver).

Conservatory Orchestra (CO)

The Conservatory Orchestra is an advanced level ensemble for students who aspire to grow musically towards YAO. The Conservatory Orchestra performs three to four concerts annually in conjunction with the String Ensemble. Concerts are performed in venues such as Gates Concert Hall at The Newman Center and Boettcher Concert Hall. Students receive occasional coachings throughout the season and attend a weekend retreat in September. Recent repertoire includes Smetana: *The Moldau*, Bizet: *L'Arlesienne* Suite no. 1, Arturo Márquez: *Conga del Fuego Nuevo,* and Copland: "Hoedown" from *Rodeo*.

Placement in the Conservatory Orchestra is by audition. Membership is open to musicians between the ages of 10 and 18. Conservatory Orchestra rehearses Monday evenings from 6:30pm-8:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church (4500 E Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village).

String Ensemble (SE)

The String Ensemble gives young music students an opportunity to experience the great wealth of string orchestra literature. The ensemble is designed for those who are developing a facility in bowing techniques, reading music, and the use of vibrato. Composed of approximately 25 members, the String Ensemble performs three to four concerts in conjunction with the Conservatory Orchestra. Students receive occasional coachings throughout the season and attend a one-day retreat in September. Recent repertoire includes Vivaldi: Concerto for Strings RV121, Britten: Simple Symphony mvt. I, a world premiere by composer and violinist Joy Black, and music from *Moana*.

Placement in the String Ensemble is determined by audition. Membership is open to musicians between the ages of 7 and 13. String Ensemble rehearses Monday evenings from 5:00pm-6:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church (4500 E Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village).

Audition Requirements

Candidates auditioning for membership in a Denver Young Artists Orchestra Association ensemble must prepare the following:

1. **Scales:** One two-octave scale of your choice.

2. **A one-minute excerpt of a solo piece or etude** showing your highest level of development both technically and musically.

3. **Orchestral excerpt(s)** as defined below.

CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR **THE CONSERVATORY ORCHESTRA *or* YOUNG ARTISTS ORCHESTRA**

Prepare the enclosed excerpts from:

- **Verdi: Overture to *La Forza del Destino*, rehearsal G to H**
- **Rimsky-Korsakov: *Capriccio Espagnol*, mvt. IV cadenza**

4. **Possible sight-reading** as determined by the audition committee.

The excerpts are meant to challenge your musicianship. Written below are a few suggestions to assist your audition preparation.
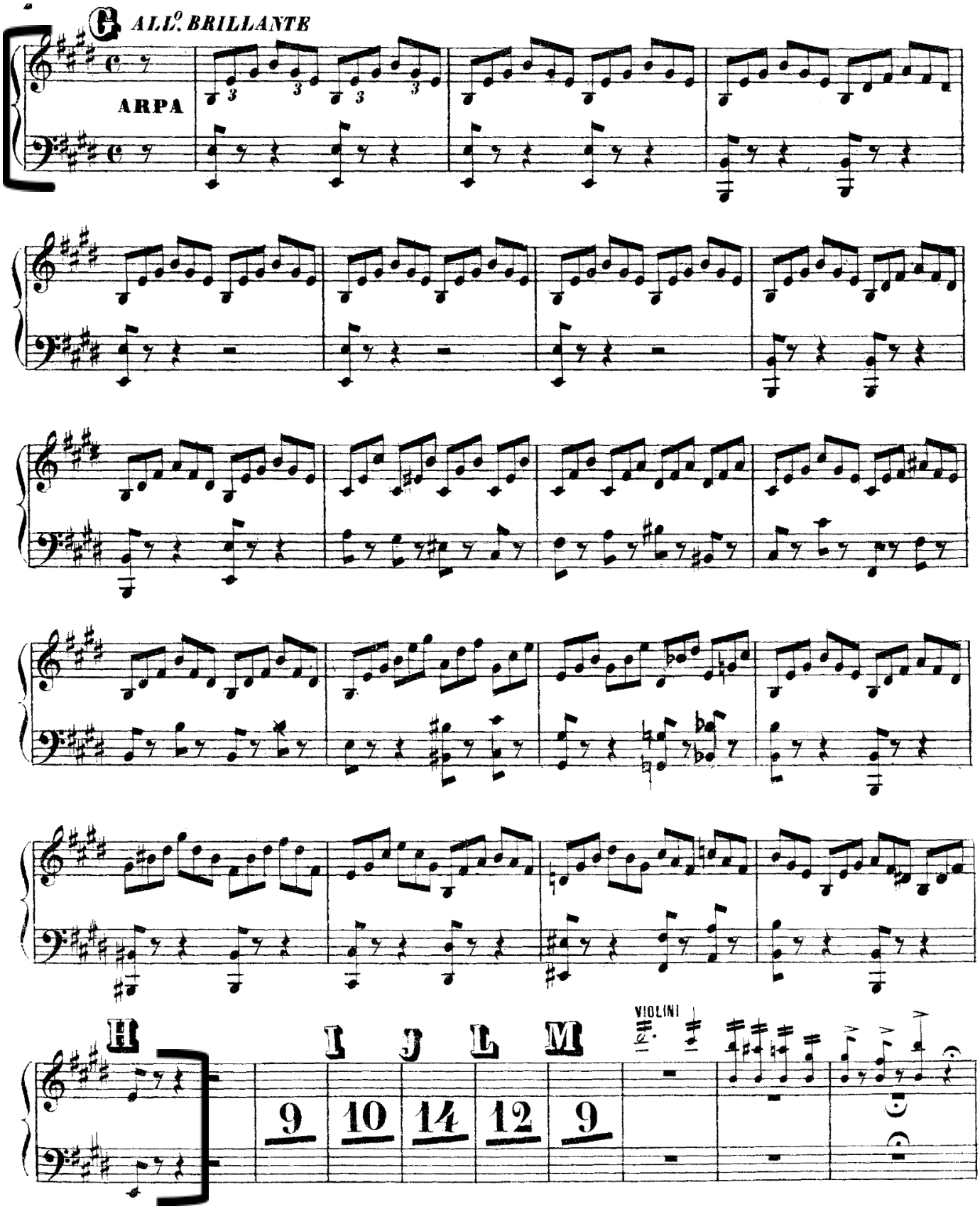
1. **Play the music in the right tempo:** If tempos are not indicated in your excerpts, please work with your teacher and listen to reputable orchestra recordings to determine the correct speed. Time after time our judges comment that candidates' tempi are unsteady and often *way too fast*! Judges are not listening to hear how fast you can play; rather, they are listening to see if you can play the piece correctly at an appropriate tempo. Rushing and dragging are things to avoid. Practice with a metronome and record yourself playing these excerpts to ensure accuracy.

2. **Play with dynamic contrast:** Often judges comment that candidates ignore dynamic markings, especially the softer end of the dynamic spectrum. Remember that music is more than rhythms and pitches: first and foremost music is sound. Sell your performance!

3. **Divisi and rests:** All players should learn **top** divisi/notes unless explicitly noted otherwise. Also, unless otherwise marked, long rests (more than two measures) should be played as unmeasured pauses in the audition.

CO *and* YAO:

Verdi: Overture to *La Forza del Destino*, rehearsal G to H



CO *and* YAO:

Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio Espagnol, mvt. IV cadenza

