



colorado symphony
association affiliate

2021-2022

Piano
Audition
Packet

Orchestras (Piano may only audition for YAO**)**

Young Artists Orchestra (YAO)

YAO, the most advanced of our ensembles, performs four to six concerts annually, including one side-by-side concert with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Concerts are performed in venues such as Boettcher Concert Hall and Gates Concert Hall at DU. Recent repertoire has included Prokofiev Symphony no. 5, Brahms Symphony no. 4, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, and Borodin Symphony no. 2.

Placement in YAO is determined by audition. Membership is open to musicians between the ages of 13-23 and is conducted by Wes Kenney. Composed of approximately 70 members, YAO rehearses Saturday mornings from 9:00am-12:30pm at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music (2344 E Iliff Ave, Denver) and they attend a weekend retreat in September.

Conservatory Orchestra (CO)

The Conservatory Orchestra is an advanced level ensemble for students who aspire to grow into YAO. The Conservatory Orchestra performs 3-4 concerts annually in conjunction with the String Ensemble. Concerts are performed in venues such as The Newman Center for the Performing Arts and Boettcher Concert Hall. Students receive occasional coachings throughout the season and attend an overnight retreat in September. Recent repertoire includes Brahms *Hungarian Dances*, Beethoven Symphony no. 1, and Beethoven Symphony no. 5.

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 3-4 concerts in conjunction with the Conservatory Orchestra. Recent repertoire includes Grieg's *Holberg Suite*.

Placement in the String Ensemble is determined by audition and membership is open to musicians between the ages of 8 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 (**Piano may only audition for YAO**)

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

1. A solo piece or etude (excerpt) no longer than 1 minute that best demonstrates your highest level of musicianship and technique.
2. Orchestral excerpt(s) as defined below.

a. CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR THE YOUNG ARTISTS ORCHESTRA

Prepare the enclosed excerpts from:

- **Shostakovich: Symphony no. 5 mvt. I reh. 17 to reh. 22**
- **Copland: “Buckaroo Holiday” from *Rodeo* reh. 11 to reh. 19**

3. 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.

YAO:

Shostakovich: Symphony no. 5 mvt. I reh. 17 to reh. 22

17 $\text{♩} = 92$
una corda secco

18

poco animando

The image shows a page of musical notation for piano, consisting of four systems of staves. The first system is marked with a box containing the number '17' and a tempo marking '♩ = 92'. Below the first staff of this system is the instruction 'una corda secco'. The second system contains a box with the number '18'. The third system is marked with the instruction 'poco animando'. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, various note values, rests, and dynamic markings. The music is in a minor key, as indicated by the key signature.

Piano e Celesta

19 $\text{♩} = 104$

Musical notation for measures 19 and 20. Measure 19 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes.

20

Musical notation for measures 20 and 21. Measure 20 continues the melodic lines from the previous system. Measure 21 shows a change in the bass line with a key signature change to one flat (Bb).

21

Musical notation for measures 21 and 22. Measure 21 features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 22 has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in measure 22.

Allegro non troppo, $\text{♩} = 126$

22

23

46

5

Tacet al

2

Musical notation for measures 22 through 46. Measure 22 has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 23 and 46 have bass clefs and a key signature of one flat (Bb). Measure 23 includes a dynamic marking of *f*. Measures 23-46 are marked as *Tacet al* (tacet all). A bracket groups measures 22-23. Measure 23 has a measure rest of 5. Measure 46 has a measure rest of 2.

YAO:

Copland: "Buckaroo Holiday" from Rodeo reh. 11 to reh. 19

The musical score is presented in two systems. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. It contains measures 11 through 15. Measure 11 is marked with a circled '3'. Measure 12 is marked with 'poco a poco accel.' and a circled '5'. A bracket above measures 12 and 13 indicates the start of the 'Brass' section, which begins in measure 12 with a circled '11' and the tempo marking 'Allegro'. The brass part is marked 'mf' and features a series of chords and eighth-note patterns. The piano accompaniment in the first system consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The second system contains measures 16 through 19. Measure 16 is marked with a circled '12'. Measures 17, 18, and 19 are marked with 'sf' (sforzando). The piano part continues with chords and a bass line, while the brass part continues with its rhythmic pattern. Measure 19 ends with a circled '11'.

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Harp & Piano

Musical score for measures 13 and 14. Measure 13 is marked with a circled 13 and an 8-measure repeat sign. Measure 14 is marked with a circled 14. The piano part features a series of chords with accents, marked with *f* dynamics.

Musical score for measures 15 and 16. Measure 15 is marked with a circled 15 and a 7-measure repeat sign. Measure 16 is marked with a circled 16 and a 9-measure repeat sign. The piano part includes first and second endings, marked with '1' and '2'.

Musical score for measures 17 and 18. Measure 17 is marked with a circled 17, a Picc. marking, and an 8-measure repeat sign. Measure 18 is marked with a circled 18 and an 8-measure repeat sign. The piano part includes a Piccolo section.

Musical score for measures 19 and 20. Measure 19 is marked with a circled 19 and an 8-measure repeat sign. Measure 20 is marked with a circled 20 and an 8-measure repeat sign. The piano part includes first and second endings, marked with '2' and '3'.

Musical score for measures 21 and 22. Measure 21 is marked with a circled 21 and an 8-measure repeat sign. Measure 22 is marked with a circled 22 and an 8-measure repeat sign. The piano part includes first and second endings, marked with '2'.