



2022-2023

Piano
Audition
Packet

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

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. The Young Artists Orchestra is conducted by DYAO Music Director Wes Kenney. Students receive occasional coachings throughout the season and attend a weekend retreat in September. Recent repertoire includes Elgar: *Enigma Variations*, Tchaikovsky: *1812 Overture*, Michael Daugherty: *Fire and Blood*, and Dvorak: *Symphony No. 6*.

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 into 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 Schubert: "Unfinished" Symphony, Bizet: *Carmen* Suite no. 1, Arturo Márquez: *Danzón No. 2*, and Vivaldi: "Winter" from *The Four Seasons*.

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 Holst: *St. Paul's Suite*, Mozart: *Divertimento K. 138*, and music from *Jurassic Park* and *Star Wars*.

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

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

1. **A one-minute excerpt of a solo piece or etude** showing your highest level of development both technically and musically.
2. **Orchestral excerpt(s)** as defined below.

a. CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR THE YOUNG ARTISTS ORCHESTRA

Prepare the enclosed excerpts from:

- **Bernstein: *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, measure 404 to 437**
- **Copland: *Appalachian Spring*, rehearsal 7 to 3 before rehearsal 10**

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:

Bernstein: *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, m. 404 to 437

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).
- **System 1 (Measures 404-410):** Measure 404 is marked with a box containing the number 404 and the instruction *8va*. The music begins with a *ff* dynamic. Measures 410-411 are marked with a box containing 410 and the instruction *loco*.
- **System 2 (Measures 412-420):** Measure 420 is marked with a box containing 420 and the instruction *loco*. The dynamic marking *ff* appears in measure 418, and *f* appears in measure 420.
- **System 3 (Measures 421-437):** This system concludes the piece. It features a *ff* dynamic in measure 421, a *p* dynamic in measure 422, and a *loco* instruction in measure 425. The final two measures (436-437) are marked with a box containing the number 4, indicating a four-measure rest for both staves.

430

Musical score for measures 430-431. The score is written for piano in two staves (treble and bass clef). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed eighth and sixteenth notes. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present in the first measure. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final notes.

442

Musical score for measures 442-443. The score is written for piano in two staves. Measure 442 begins with a triplet of eighth notes in both staves, marked with a '3' above and below. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present. The lyrics "Shout: Mam-bo!" are written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final notes. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Copland: *Appalachian Spring*, reh. 7 to 3 before reh. 10

Musical score for rehearsal mark 7. The system consists of two staves: a piano staff on the left and a violin staff on the right. The piano part begins with a *marcato* marking. The violin part has a *v* marking. A dashed line above the violin staff indicates a first ending that repeats the preceding material. The rehearsal mark number '7' is enclosed in a box at the beginning of the system.

Musical score for rehearsal mark 8. The system consists of two staves: a piano staff on the left and a violin staff on the right. The piano part is marked *f non legato (bell like)*. The violin part has a *v* marking. A dashed line above the violin staff indicates a first ending. The rehearsal mark number '8' is enclosed in a box at the beginning of the system.

Musical score for rehearsal mark 9. The system consists of two staves: a piano staff on the left and a violin staff on the right. The piano part has a *v* marking. The violin part has a *v* marking. A dashed line above the violin staff indicates a first ending. The rehearsal mark number '9' is enclosed in a box at the beginning of the system.

Musical score for rehearsal mark 9, continuing from the previous system. The system consists of two staves: a piano staff on the left and a violin staff on the right. The piano part has a *v* marking. The violin part has a *v* marking. A dashed line above the violin staff indicates a first ending. The rehearsal mark number '9' is enclosed in a box at the beginning of the system.

Musical score for rehearsal mark 10. The system consists of two staves: a piano staff on the left and a violin staff on the right. The piano part has a *v* marking. The violin part has a *v* marking. A dashed line above the violin staff indicates a first ending. The rehearsal mark number '10' is enclosed in a box at the beginning of the system. The system concludes with two measures labeled '1' and '2'.