



colorado symphony
association affiliate

2021-2022

Harp
Audition
Packet

Orchestras

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

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

1. A 1-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 CONSERVATORY ORCHESTRA or YOUNG ARTISTS ORCHESTRA

Prepare the enclosed excerpts from:

- Tchaikovsky: *The Nutcracker* (Cadenza from “The Waltz of the Flowers)
- Verdi: Overture to *La Forza del Destino* reh. G to reh. H

**Note: if you are auditioning for more than one orchestra, please prepare the required excerpts for the higher level orchestra.*

3. Scales: One two-octave scale of your choice
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:

Tchaikovsky: *Nutcracker* (Waltz of the flowers)

16 Solo (In tempo) *ff* Cadenza ad libitum

19

23

26

29 *rit.* *a tempo* A

4 16 16

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the 'Waltz of the Flowers' from Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker'. The score is written for piano and is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins at measure 16 with a 'Solo (In tempo)' section marked *ff*. The melody is primarily in the right hand, featuring eighth-note patterns. A 'Cadenza ad libitum' section follows, starting at measure 19. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. At measure 26, there is a section marked *8va* (octave) with a trill-like figure. The piece concludes at measure 29 with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking, followed by a final section marked *a tempo* and 'A'. The final section consists of three measures with a 4-16-16 measure signature.

CO and YAO:

Verdi: Overture to *La Forza del Destino* reh. G to reh. H

Guitar chord diagram for G major: $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{E} & \text{B} & \text{D} & \text{G} & \text{B} & \text{E} \\ \hline \end{array}$

Allegro brillante

First system of piano music, measures 1-4. The right hand features a melodic line with triplets, and the left hand provides a simple accompaniment.

Second system of piano music, measures 5-8. The melodic line continues with eighth-note patterns.

Third system of piano music, measures 9-12. The melodic line continues with eighth-note patterns.

Fourth system of piano music, measures 13-16. Handwritten annotations in circles are placed below the bass line: E#, E#, B#, B#, A#.

Fifth system of piano music, measures 17-20. Handwritten annotations in circles are placed below the bass line: A#, B#, B#, B#.

Harp I

3

The first system of musical notation for Harp I consists of two staves. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes. Four chords are circled in the bass staff: B \flat (first measure), G \sharp (second measure), B \flat (third measure), and B \flat (fourth measure). Above the staves, there are some faint markings that appear to be a simplified fingering or articulation diagram.

The second system of musical notation for Harp I consists of two staves. The treble staff continues the melodic line. The bass staff contains the harmonic accompaniment. Six chords are circled in the bass staff: D \sharp (first measure), E \sharp (second measure), C \sharp (third measure), E \sharp (fourth measure), D \sharp (fifth measure), and a boxed 'H' (sixth measure). A large bracket on the right side of the system indicates the end of the piece, with a wavy line below it.