



## 2021-2022 Audition Instructions and Advice

*We look forward to your audition! Here are some things to know and think about as we look forward to hearing you on August 28<sup>th</sup> :*

1. Make sure to sign up for your time slot on <https://www.timetosignup.com/yyso2018/sheet/1265865/>
2. All auditions will take place LIVE, in person, this year – hooray! To ensure fairness, all auditions will be done blind (judges turned away from player).
  - a. *Why audition live?* a) We want to see how you perform consistently, not just how you perform on your best attempt, and b) a strong part of YYSO's mission is education; we feel that getting repetition in live auditions is super important for continued musical maturity

### **AUDITION REQUIREMENTS for String and Wind Players:**

**SCALES:** Come prepared to perform any scale on the PMEA District 7 Scale Sheet for your particular instrument, with the noted tempo and articulation. They can be found here: <https://www.pmeadistrict7.org/scale-requirements.html>. In your actual audition, you will be asked one scale.

**SOLO:** Prepare an excerpt of a solo of your choice that best demonstrates your ability. Play something that shows you at your *best*, even if it means performing something a little easier than you are currently playing. You will not need more than 2 minutes of music for this, and you do not need to begin at the beginning of the piece if a section from the middle or end is more appropriate.

**ORCHESTRAL EXCERPT:** Please see other sheet for orchestral excerpts. This part of the audition is to gauge how quickly and accurately you can learn advanced orchestral music. I am looking forward to performing all these works, and many more, this year with the YYSO! Hopefully these excerpts are challenging and simultaneously fun to learn in these summer months.

### **Percussion Audition Guidelines:**

1. **Snare Etude** – play entire snare etude to the best of your ability (we realize that you may not all be snare 'specialists')
2. **Timpani or Mallet Scales** – choose either the Timpani etude or the Mallet Scales (choose any four scales @ 120 BPM), depending on your strengths
3. You should bring your own snare. Timpani will be provided. Mallets will be provided upon request.
4. Actual YYSO percussion assignments will be determined based on your strengths and versatility.
5. We are looking at doing some thrilling *percussion-heavy* works this year, but we need the players to do it! Recruit your percussion friends – we can easily take as many as 4-5 percussionists this year.

## TIPS AND ADVICE FROM THE CONDUCTOR, MR. BUTERBAUGH (MR. B):

1. Watch my video that is included with this audition information to give you a brief overview of the audition process and what lies ahead for us this season. **E-mail me** ([brian.buterbaugh@yorkyouthsymphony.org](mailto:brian.buterbaugh@yorkyouthsymphony.org)) with any music-related questions, but make sure to read through the below details first.
2. If you've never auditioned for YYSO before, now is the time to make the leap! This is a tremendous organization that is coming out of the "COVID year" strong as ever. We look forward to returning to our normal size and rehearsal format! The YYSO is a family, and with a lot of tremendous student-musicians graduating seemingly every year, we are always looking for new faces in new places.
3. Suggested tempos for the excerpts are given; if you are not ready to play them at the suggested tempo *yet*, play them at the tempo that best demonstrates your capabilities as a player while getting as close to "concert tempo" as possible.
4. Solos – seriously, show us your best 2 minutes. We'd love to hear more; we just don't have the time...
5. **String players** – some bowings are given; I would encourage you to use them as written.
6. **Clarinet** – note that either the original Clarinet in A excerpt or the transposed Clarinet in Bb are both completely accessible.
7. We, the YYSO and the judges, want you to do your absolute best. Just know that. I think sometimes students (myself included when I was younger) think that judges are "out there to get you". Nonsense. There is nothing more EXCITING for a judge than hearing an amazing audition. We are rooting for you the whole way!
8. All results and seating are final.
9. *What are the judges listening for?* Quality tone; accurate pitches and rhythms; a strong sense of intonation; musicality that matches the demands of the repertoire; technique (including articulation cleanliness); a sense of leadership skills exuded through the music; music shows a clear level of preparation. Don't be intimidated by that list; the best (and hardest) thing you can do for yourself is to record yourself playing and regularly self-evaluate. You are often your harshest critic!

Prepare well, and good luck! I look forward to hopefully having you join us as part of the the 2021-2022 season of the York Youth Symphony Orchestra!

- Mr. B



Brian Buterbaugh  
Music Director/Conductor  
York Youth Symphony Orchestra