

## **Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra 2021-22**

### **Audition Information**

The RFYO will hold placement auditions for all students for the 2021-22 school year. Both continuing and new students sign up for an audition time as part of registration. This is a way for students to demonstrate their playing ability to ensure that they are placed in the best ensemble according to their skills and experience.

#### **Audition dates (sign up for one as part of registration):**

August 26

August 31

#### **Preparing for your Audition**

Auditions are meant to be a healthy learning experience, good motivation for practicing, and an important skill to learn for future opportunities. Most youth orchestras, regional ensembles, and summer camps require auditions either taped or in-person. The RFYO aims to prepare students to succeed wherever they choose to go with music as they progress through middle and high school, and possibly go on to play in their college orchestra or study music.

Please work with your private teacher in lessons to prepare for your audition and to choose the best audition date and pieces for you. While we expect students to work diligently to prepare for these auditions, we are not suggesting that students should attempt to learn a piece or scales that their teacher does not recommend, or that are not within reach from a student's current level. For example, if you are currently playing a piece in Suzuki book 2, please do not attempt to learn something from book 4 for the audition. We want to see you play confidently at your current playing level, or possibly work hard all summer to reach the next step in your own playing. Preparing for and playing auditions are also an important skill to learn so that students are ready for future opportunities that require auditions.

# **Audition Requirements**

## **Preparatory String Orchestra**

**1. Prepare to play one solo piece** that is at or above these example pieces:

**Violin:** Suzuki Book 1, Etude or later, or end of Essential Elements Book 1

**Viola:** mid - Suzuki Book 1, or end of Essential Elements Book 1

**Cello:** Suzuki Book 1, Etude or later, or end of Essential Elements Book 1

**Bass:** mid - Suzuki Book 1 or end of Essential Elements Book 1

**2. Scales — Half Notes and Quarter Notes at Quarter = 60, Separate Bows**

**Violin:** 1 Octave: A Major, D Major, 2 octaves G Major

**Viola:** 1 Octave: D Major, G Major; 2 Octaves: C Major

**Cello:** 1 Octave: D Major, G Major; 2 Octaves: C Major

**Bass:** 1 Octave: G Major, D Major

**3. Sight Reading and other skills:**

1. Basic ability to read quarter, eighth, half and whole notes that fall within first position in the keys of the scales listed above
2. Able to identify the note names from the staff and find them on the instrument with relative ease (notes included in the above scales)
3. Some familiarity with F Naturals, C Naturals and G Naturals (violins on the E string)
4. Able to point to the key signature on the page and has some knowledge of how to determine the sharps or flats. Can identify the time signature and play in 3/4 and 4/4 time.
5. Can play 2 note slurs in a doable context

**4. Excerpts**

After registering you will be sent a short excerpt of music to prepare for your audition. Please follow all bowings and fingerings provided in the excerpt. This is a piece that will be played in the fall.

# Audition Requirements

## Camerata

### 1. SOLO PIECE

Prepare to play one solo piece (or prepare 2-3 minutes of a longer piece) that is at or above these example pieces. Does not need to be memorized.

**Violin:** Middle of Book 3, or equivalent, demonstrating shifting and vibrato

**Viola:** Suzuki Book 2 or later, or equivalent

**Cello:** Suzuki Book 3 or later or equivalent

**Bass:** Suzuki book 2 or equivalent

### 2. Scales

Played with the metronome at Quarter = 60

Half notes (long legato bows); Quarter Notes, 2 notes slurred; 2 staccato eighth notes per note

Violin: 2 octaves: G Major, D Major, C Major, G melodic minor

Viola: 2 Octaves: C major, D Major; Possibly G Major, 2 Octaves

Cello: 2 Octaves: C Major, D Major, G Major, G Melodic Minor

Bass: 1 Octave C Major, G Major, D Major, F Major, B Flat Major

### 3. Sight Reading Level and Skills to Demonstrate

1. Ability to play a short excerpt using quarter, eighth, sixteenth, whole and half notes with notes from the scales above
2. Shifting between first and third positions for violins and violas, and between first, second, third, and fourth for cellos with fingerings provided
3. Has a solid grasp of intonation
4. Developing vibrato
5. Recognizes and can define basic dynamic and tempo markings

### 4. Excerpts

After registering you will be given short excerpt(s) of music to prepare for your audition. Please follow all bowings and fingerings provided in the excerpt.

# Audition Requirements

## Philharmonia

### 1. SOLO PIECE

Prepare to play one solo piece (or prepare 2-3 minutes of a longer piece) that is at or above these example pieces. Pieces do not need to be memorized.

Violin: Suzuki Book 5 or later, or equivalent

Viola: Beginning of Suzuki Book 3 or later, or equivalent

Cello: Danse Rustique or equivalent or later

Bass: Suzuki book 3 or later or equivalent

Woodwind and Brass: Please choose segments of two contrasting pieces, or standard orchestral excerpts, to demonstrate your current ability level

### 2. SCALES

String bowings: slur 2 quarter notes, 4 eighth notes, 8 sixteenth notes at Quarter=60; and four Spiccato notes per scales degree at Quarter=60

Violin: 3 octave major scales: C, G, D, B flat; G melodic minor

Viola: 2 octaves: C and G Major, 3 octaves: C melodic minor, C Major

Cello: 3 octave major scales: C, G, D, E-Flat; C melodic minor

Bass: 2 octaves G Major Scale, and one octave G melodic minor scale

Woodwind and Brass: Chromatic scale and major scale of choice (quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes at quarter=80)

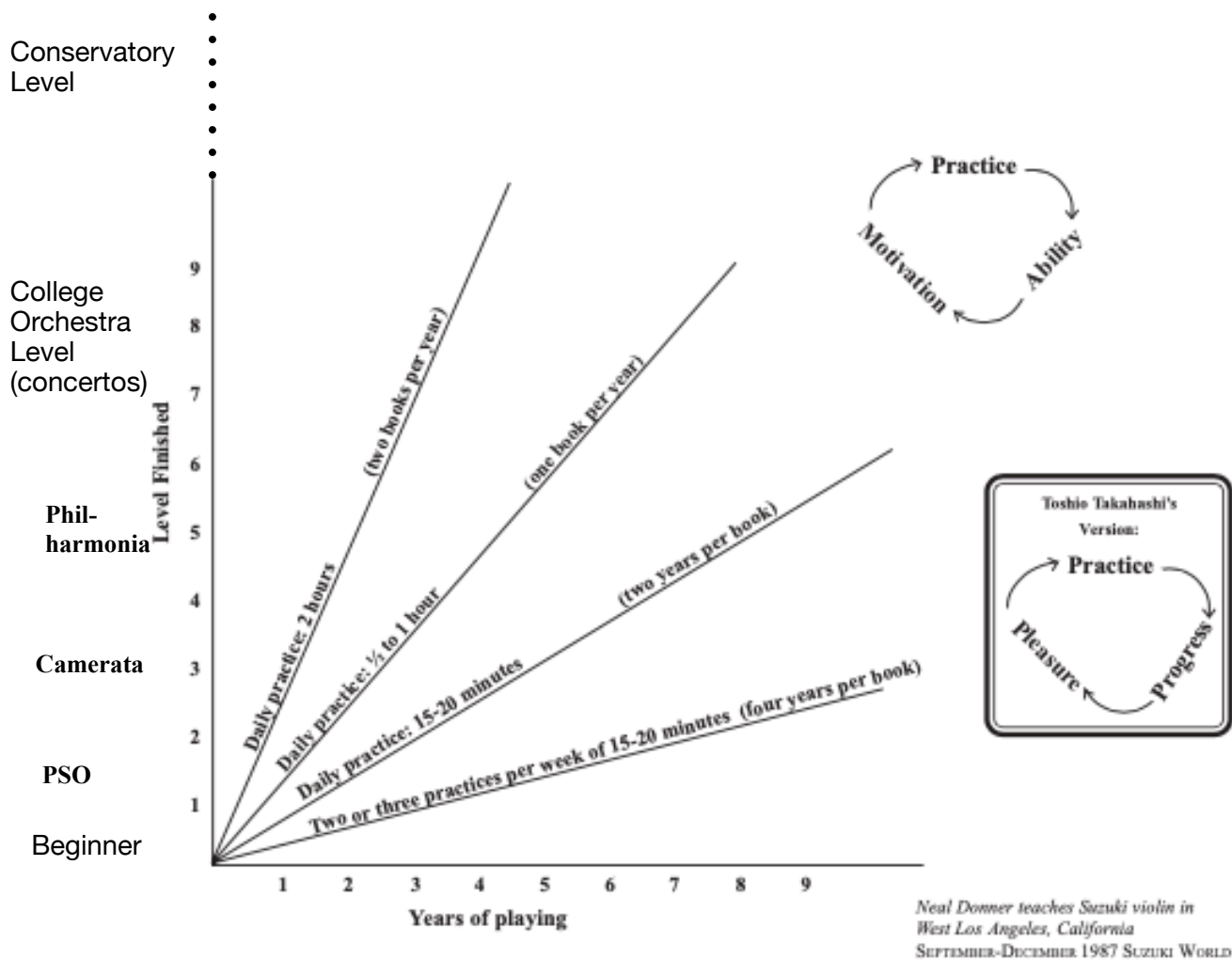
### 3. Sight Reading Level and Skills to Demonstrate

1. Ability to play a short excerpt using quarter, eighth, sixteenth, whole and half notes with notes from the scales/key signatures above
2. Fluid shifting in 1st-4th positions for violins and violas, and between 1st through 6th positions for cellos with fingering suggestions provided
3. Recognizes and can define basic dynamic and tempo markings
4. For cellos — some ability to read tenor clef
5. Fluid vibrato (string players) and solid intonation

### 4. Excerpts

After registering you will be given short excerpt(s) of music to prepare for your audition. Please follow all bowings and fingerings provided in the excerpt.

**Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion:** You are welcome to use this a practice audition for all-state material — using orchestral excerpts in place of solo repertoire, and substituting all-state scale requirements for the scales above



**Recommended minimum practice time by RFYO orchestra level**

These are guides for minimum amounts only, practicing more is always good! This is the time spent practicing all music, which would include some segment of orchestra music practice as well as technique, scales, solos and anything else your private teacher assigns.

**PSO (Preparatory String Orchestra) student recommended practice time:**  
 30 minutes 4-5 times a week, or 15-20 minutes daily

**Camerata-level student recommended minimum practice time:**  
 45 minutes 4-5 times per week, or at least 30 minutes daily

**Philharmonia-level student recommended minimum practice time:**  
 60 minutes 4-5 times per week, or 45 minutes daily