

2021-22 SEASON

AUDITION GUIDE

opportunities
for

VIOLIN
VIOLA
CELLO
BASS

FLUTE
OBOE
CLARINET
BASSOON

HORN
TRUMPET
TROMBONE
TUBA

PIANO
PERCUSSION
HARP



ABOUT THE QCSYE

The **Quad City Symphony Youth Ensembles** (QCSYE) program consists of four ensembles for students in grades four through twelve. Under the direction of the outstanding QCSYE conducting staff, members have the opportunity to perform great orchestral repertoire with the most talented young musicians in the area and learn from the mentorship of professional musicians from throughout the region. Ensemble members come from the greater Quad Cities, as well as other communities in southeast Iowa and northwest Illinois.

Youth Symphony Orchestra (YSO) is a full symphony orchestra comprised of nearly 90 members and is the premiere youth orchestra in the region. Members perform several times throughout the year in a variety of rewarding performance settings, including the pre-show for the Quad City Bank & Trust Riverfront Pops under the direction of Ernesto Estigarribia and the Side-by-Side concert with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Mark Russell Smith, where they perform advanced orchestral repertoire. YSO generally rehearses on Sundays from 5:45 – 8:15 PM.

Youth Philharmonic Orchestra (YPO) is an advanced orchestra whose members experience playing in a full orchestra with strings, winds, and percussion. The YPO performs original repertoire, as well as challenging arrangements of great orchestral masterpieces. YPO generally rehearses on Sundays from 3:00 – 5:15 PM.

Youth String Ensemble (YSE) is an intermediate string ensemble for young musicians. Participation in the YSE develops members' individual technique and prepares them for a full orchestra experience. YSE generally rehearses on Sundays from 5:15 – 7:00 PM.

Prelude Strings is an introductory-preparatory ensemble for young string musicians. Members improve individual playing technique, develop ensemble skills, and gain valuable performance experience. Prelude Strings primarily serves students in grades four through eight and generally rehearses Sundays from 3:15 – 4:45 PM.

SEASON OVERVIEW

August 20, 2021	YSO Fall Retreat
August 21, 2021	YSO Pre-Show Performance at Riverfront Pops
August 29, 2021	YPO, YSE, & Prelude Strings Fall Retreat
November 14, 2021	QCSYE Fall Concert
December 4, 2021	YSO Concerto Competition
February 20, 2022	QCSYE Winter Concerts
February 24, 2021	YSO Symphony Day Concerts
April 24, 2021	QCSO & QCSYE Side-by-Side Concert
May 8, 2021	YSO Spring Retreat & Finale Concert

BENEFITS OF QCSYE MEMBERSHIP

- Perform spectacular orchestral music with the most promising young musicians from throughout the region under the direction of inspiring, expert conductors.
- Rehearse with Michele Ottesen and Elizabeth Lundine as well as QCSYE Music Director, Ernesto Estigarribia & QCSO Music Director, Mark Russell Smith.
- Work regularly with QCSO musicians in specialized sectionals.
- Experience unique performance opportunities in the region's finest indoor and outdoor performance venues.
- Receive complimentary student tickets and discounted companion tickets to QCSO Masterworks & Signature Series concerts.
- Earn scholarships awarded for musical development opportunities, such as summer music camps, new instruments, instrument accessories, and more.
- Audition for the YSO Concerto Competition to earn an opportunity to perform as a soloist with either the QCSO or YSO.

TUITION

Tuition for each ensemble is listed below. Need-based financial aid is available to all members. **No member will be denied participation due to an inability to pay the tuition amount in full.** The QCSYE continues to be committed to making its program accessible to all interested students, regardless of income.

Youth Symphony Orchestra, \$515/season

Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, \$430/season

Youth String Ensemble, \$320/season

Prelude Strings, \$255/season

2021-2022 AUDITIONS

Each season, auditions are held for students who wish to be considered for QCSYE membership and for current members who wish to progress to a more advanced ensemble. The following information is intended to assist students in preparing for, scheduling, and performing a QCSYE audition.

APPLYING FOR PRELUDE STRINGS

Students who wish to be considered for membership in Prelude Strings, the entry-level string orchestra, are not required to perform an audition. Instead, prospective members must:

- 1) Complete the Prelude Strings Membership Application.
- 2) Ask a school music teacher or private lesson instructor to complete the Prelude Strings Teacher Reference Form.
- 3) Pay the \$10.00 non-refundable application fee, which is submitted by credit or debit card as part of the online application form.

QCSYE conducting staff will evaluate each Prelude Strings application in conjunction with the auditions for YSE, YPO, and YSO. Placement emails indicating acceptance status will be sent to each applicant after review.

PREPARING FOR YOUR ORCHESTRA AUDITION

String Players

1. String students should prepare a solo of 1 - 2 minutes in length. Solos may be school contest solos, excerpts from larger solos, or any solo selection which demonstrates your skill.

Solos do not have to be memorized and should be performed unaccompanied. Etudes from All-State, District, SEISTA, or equivalent are acceptable.

2. Prepare the scale(s) indicated below for your instrument (and the orchestra level for which you would like to be considered for membership). **For online auditions, you will need to record two scales of your choice from the list below:**

Youth Symphony Orchestra Scales

Violin: 3-octave C, G, D, A, and B-flat major scales

Viola and Cello: 3-octave C, G, D, and F major scales

Bass: 2-octave C, G, D, F, and B-flat major scales

Scales should be played at quarter note = 80, slurring two quarter notes per bow with a full and sustained sound, ascending and descending.

Youth Philharmonic Orchestra Scales

Violin: 2-octave D major and 3-octave G and C major scales

Viola and Cello: 3-octave C major and 2-octave D major scale

Bass: 2-octave G and F major scales

Scales should be played at quarter note = 80, slurring two quarter notes per bow with a full and sustained sound, ascending and descending.

Youth String Ensemble Scales

Violin, Viola, and Cello: 2-octave G and C major scales

Bass: 2-octave G major and 1-octave F major scale

Scales should be played with separate bows on quarter notes at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 60, ascending and descending.

3. Download, print, and prepare the required excerpt for your instrument (and the orchestra level for which you would like to be considered for membership). **Audition excerpts are available as PDF downloads at qcso.org and must be brought by the applicant to the audition.**

Woodwind and Brass Players

1. Woodwind and brass students should prepare a solo approximately 2 minutes in length. Solos may be school contest solos, excerpts from larger solos, or any solo selection which demonstrates your skill. Solos do not have to be memorized and should be performed unaccompanied. Etudes from All-State, District, SEIBA, or equivalent are acceptable.

2. Prepare two major scales of your choice in 2 or more octaves, ascending and descending. The scales must be performed in **eighth notes** at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80 for YSO OR in **quarter notes** at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80 for YPO membership consideration. Scales should be performed all tongued in one direction and all slurred in the other direction.

3. Prepare a chromatic scale over the range of the instrument in which you can play using an excellent tone, ascending and descending. The chromatic scale must be performed in **eighth notes** at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80 for YSO OR in **quarter notes** at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80 for YPO membership consideration. No specific articulation pattern is required.

4. Download, print, and prepare the required excerpt for your instrument (and the orchestra level for which you would like to be considered for membership). **Audition excerpts are available as PDF downloads at qcso.org and must be brought by the applicant to the audition.**

Percussionists

1. Prepare a solo or etude on the percussion instrument of your choice (snare drum, timpani, or keyboard percussion) that demonstrates your greatest skill, talent, and confidence. The solo/etude should be approximately 2 minutes in length. Etudes from All-State, District, SEIBA, or equivalent are acceptable.

2. Download, print, and prepare the required excerpt for your instrument (and the orchestra level for which you would like to be considered for membership). **Audition excerpts are available as PDF downloads at qcso.org and must be brought by the applicant to the audition.**

3. Demonstrate the following techniques on the following instruments:

Snare Drum

Play a multiple bounce (orchestral) roll at the performer's maximum, controlled speed from soft to loud to soft.

Play a double stroke (rudimentary) roll from slow to fast to slow at a constant volume.

Keyboard Percussion

Play 2-octave C and D major scales, ascending and descending, in eighth notes at quarter note = 100.

Play a chromatic scale the full range of the instrument, ascending and descending, in eighth notes at quarter note = 100.

Timpani

Perform a glissando roll ascending and descending.

Tune to a required pitch.

Crash Cymbals

Perform crashes at various volume levels.

Tambourine

Perform shake and thumb rolls

REGISTERING FOR AN AUDITION

Students interested in auditioning for the 2021-22 season should complete the QCSYE Audition Registration Form and pay the \$10 non-refundable audition fee found at [qcso.org](https://www.qcso.org).

CONNECT



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