2019-20 SEASON
AUDITION GUIDE
MAY 14-30, 2019 | QCSO.ORG

OPPORTUNITIES FOR
- VIOLIN
- VIOLA
- CELLO
- BASS
- FLUTE
- OBOE
- CLARINET
- BASSOON
- HORN
- TRUMPET
- TROMBONE
- TUBA
- PIANO
- PERCUSSION
- HARP
- UNCHANGED VOICE
The **Quad City Symphony Youth Ensembles** (QCSYE) program consists of six performance groups (four youth orchestras and two youth choirs) for students in grades two through twelve. Under the direction of the outstanding QCSYE conducting staff, members have the opportunity to perform great orchestral and choral 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 80 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 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 rehearse on Sundays from 5:45 – 8:15 p.m.

**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 rehearse on Sundays from 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.

**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 rehearse on Sundays from 5:15 – 7:00 p.m.

**Prelude Strings** (PS) is an introductory-preparatory ensemble for young string musicians. Through participation in PS, members improve individual playing technique, develop ensemble skills, and gain valuable performance experience. PS primarily serves students in grades four through eight and generally rehearses Sundays from 3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

**Youth Choir** (YC) is a training choir open to students in elementary and middle school. Members must have an unchanged voice, be able to match pitch, and sing well in tune with others. Participants improve individual vocal technique, develop ensemble skills, and gain valuable performance experience in a variety of rewarding performance settings. YC generally rehearses on Sundays from 3:30 – 5:15 p.m.

**Preparatory Choir** (PC) is a choir for younger singers, designed to develop a love for singing. The PC will focus on performance etiquette, basic sight reading of simple rhythms and melodies, singing in unison with a beautiful tone, as well as harmony with partner songs. PC generally rehearses on Sundays from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
SEASON OVERVIEW

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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, $490/season  
Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, $410/season  
Youth String Ensemble, $305/season  
Prelude Strings, $240/season  
Youth Choir, $305/season  
Preparatory Choir, $240/season
BENEFITS OF QCSYE MEMBERSHIP

- Perform spectacular orchestral and choral music with the most promising young musicians from throughout the region under the direction of inspiring, expert conductors.
- Rehearse with QCSYE Music Director, Ernesto Estigarribia & QCSO Music Director, Mark Russell Smith.
- Work with QCSO musicians in specialized sectionals.
- Experience unique performance opportunities in the region’s finest indoor and outdoor performance venues.
- Receive complimentary and discounted 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.

2019-2020 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 PREPARATORY CHOIR

Students who wish to be considered for membership in Preparatory Choir, an entry-level choir, are not required to perform an audition. Instead, prospective members must:

1) Complete the Preparatory Choir Membership Consideration Application.

2) Pay the non-refundable $10.00 application fee, which is submitted by credit or debit card as part of the online application form.

Conducting staff will evaluate each Preparatory Choir application in conjunction with the auditions for Youth Choir. Placement emails indicating acceptance status will be sent to each applicant after review.
PREPARING FOR YOUR CHOIR AUDITION

Youth Choir auditions will take approximately 10 minutes. Please bring a parent to the audition to meet the Youth Choir conductor and accompanist. All singers will perform a simple vocal audition that consists of the following:

1) Simple vocal warm-ups
2) Tonal and harmony exercises
3) Singing Row, Row, Row Your Boat

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 non-refundable $10.00 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.

2. Prepare the scale(s) indicated below for your instrument (and the orchestra level for which you would like to be considered for membership):

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 with separate bows on eighth notes at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80, 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 with separate bows on quarter notes at a tempo equal to or faster than quarter note = 80, 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.

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.**

www.qcso.org
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.

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 2019 - 2020 season should complete the QCSYE Audition Registration Form found at qcso.org. Individuals who complete the online registration form will be assigned an eight-minute audition time slot. This assignment will be communicated by email following submission of the online registration form when the schedule is finalized. A non-refundable $10.00 audition fee, which is submitted by credit or debit card as part of the online registration form, is required of all applicants.

**Violin & Viola Auditions**
Two Rivers United Methodist Church

- Tuesday, May 14, 4:15 - 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 21, 4:15 - 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 24, 4:15 - 8:00 p.m.

**Cello & Bass Auditions**
Two Rivers United Methodist Church

- Thursday, May 16, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 23, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 28, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Wind & Percussion Auditions**
Augustana College, Bergendoff Hall

- Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 22, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 30, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Voice**

- Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Augustana College, Bergendoff Hall
- Wednesday, May 29, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Two Rivers United Methodist Church

**Augustana College - Bergendoff Hall** | 3701 7th Avenue, Rock Island, IL
**Two Rivers United Methodist Church** | 1820 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL

CONTACT US

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