



Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Quad City Symphony Youth Ensembles. We look forward to hearing you play at your audition.

It's important to remember that the audition committee will focus on four major categories: pitch, rhythm, sound, and musicality. Keep that in mind when preparing for your audition.

The best way to prepare your assigned excerpt is to identify a few recordings of it and get the sense of the style and articulation. When you decide your tempo, please understand that the committee is interested in hearing you play in a tempo in which you can control things as opposed to too fast and uncontrolled. It's safe to play some of the excerpts a bit under tempo but with clarity of articulation and your best sound. Orchestral playing relies on clarity of articulation and rhythmic precision.

The audition is designed for you to show what you can do instead of what you can't. We want to make sure we place you in the ensemble in which you'll have the best possible experience.

Our final advice on your preparation is that slow practice is the path to success. Itzhak Perlman said, "The more you practice slowly, the slower you forget." In other words, slow practice will ensure you retain what you practice, and when you perform (or audition) you'll feel you have things under control.

Sincerely,

QCSYE Team