

2023 Viola Audition Guidelines

How to apply:

To apply for the orchestra program, applicants will prepare an audition consisting of the components listed below. Each audition location will have a warm-up space available for applicants to use prior to their audition.

1. 3-Octave C Major Scale

- Higher scores will be given to scales played accurately and evenly throughout the whole range
- Playing with or without vibrato will have no effect on applicant's score

2. Solo Piece of Applicant's Choice

*Applicants should choose a piece that demonstrates their ability to play **lyrically** since the Selected Excerpts (below) will demonstrate their technical ability. The chosen Solo Piece can be a solo, etude, All-State etude, or excerpt from an orchestral work.*

- Work of applicant's choice that demonstrates overall musicianship
- Maximum of one minute in length
- Must provide a copy of the selected work for the audition
- Does NOT have to be memorized
- No accompaniment

3. Selected Excerpts

- *An American in Paris, OkMEA All-State Excerpts # 2 & 3*

4. Sight-Reading

- Each applicant will have a 45-second study period to review the music before performing the excerpt. Applicants may not make sound on their instruments during this review time.



Audition Tips:

Applicants may wear casual/comfortable attire. Since auditions are blind and will be audio recorded for scoring at a later date, judges will not be present at auditions.

Visit the sight-reading practice and preparation resources below. Remember, the best way to become a better sight reader is to PRACTICE sight reading!

- [10 Tips and Tricks for Sight Reading Music](#)
- [4 Sight-Reading Tips Liszt Wants You to Know](#)
- [5 Steps to Mastering Sight Reading](#)

Click to view a sight reading example of comparable difficulty [here](#).

Judging Criteria:

PLEASE NOTE: OSAI audition scores may be used to determine chamber music, music electives, or orchestra part assignments, so prepare for the OSAI audition accordingly. Auditions for all disciplines are as blind as possible, meaning that judges will not have applicants' names, ages, hometowns, etc.

Scale – 5%

Solo – 10%

Excerpt – 10%

Sight reading – 25%

Overall tone, intonation, technique, and rhythm – 50%

[Read general information about our adjudication procedures here.](#)

EXCERPT #2

An American in Paris, G. Gershwin Tempo is Quarter Note = 135 (**Perform Top Notes Only**)

The musical score is for the Viola part of 'An American in Paris' by George Gershwin. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a circled measure number (20) and the instruction 'Subito animato'. The music is in 3/4 time and the key of D major. The first staff contains measures 20 through 24, featuring a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings of *mf* and *f*. The second staff continues the melody with measures 25 through 29, including a *ff* marking. The third staff contains measures 30 through 34, with a circled measure number (21) and a *ff* marking. The fourth staff contains measures 35 through 38, with a *cresc.* marking. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Permission to photocopy excerpts from Overture to Candide by Bernstein and An American in Paris by Gershwin provided by Boosey & Hawkes and EAM respectively. Please destroy all copies of the excerpts at the conclusion of the All-State Finals on December 3rd, 2022.

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Viola Audition Excerpts

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EXCERPT #3

An American in Paris, G. Gershwin Starting Tempo is Quarter Note = 135

Grandioso Tempo is Quarter Note = 80

The musical score consists of four staves. The first staff is in 4/13 time, marked *p* (piano) and *cresc. e string.* (crescendo and strings). It features a melodic line with various ornaments and a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo). The second staff is marked *Agitato* (agitated) and *ff*. The third staff is marked *Grandioso* (grandioso) and *ff*, with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. The fourth staff is marked *molto rit.* (molto ritardando) and includes a circled measure number 55.

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