

## 2026 Cello Applicant Guide

### How to Apply:

To apply for the orchestra program, applicants will upload a video audition consisting of the components listed below.

#### 1. 3-Octave C Major Scale

Please perform the scale exactly as written on the sheet music below. A specific tempo is not indicated, so you may choose a comfortable tempo—your choice will have no effect on your score. Higher scores will be given to scales played accurately and evenly throughout the full range. Using vibrato is optional and will not affect your score.

#### 2. Solo Piece of Applicant's Choice

- Work of your choice that demonstrates overall musicianship, especially your ability to play lyrically as the Selected Excerpt (below) will demonstrate technical ability
- May be a solo, etude, All-State etude, or excerpt from an orchestral work
- 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

OkMEA All-State Excerpts # 2 & 6

Saint-Säens: *Danse Bacchanale*

Williams: *Overture to The Cowboys*

### Choosing a Location:

- Choose a neat, neutral background for your video.
- Eliminate any moving/noisy elements in the room that might distract from your audition (e.g., circulating fan).
- Face the primary light source in the room (e.g., a window) to ensure you are well lit from the front. The darkest part of the room should be behind you.

### Recording Guidelines:

- Position the camera at eye level, approximately six feet away so the evaluator can clearly see both you and your full instrument.
- Audition videos should show the applicant's entire playing area—including hands, face, torso, and instrument—and the applicant should face the camera throughout the recording.
- If possible, have a helper start and stop the recording. If you need to start/stop the video yourself, that is completely fine—evaluators do not mind seeing you walk to and from the camera. It's much more important that the playing portion offers a full, unobstructed view of you and your instrument.
- Do NOT introduce yourself or give any other identifying information in your video recording.
- Wear clothing appropriate for an audition:
  - **DO** wear comfortable, neutral attire. A simple, solid-colored shirt, jeans, pants, or a long skirt are recommended.
  - **DON'T** wear garments that distract from your performance. Examples of inappropriate audition attire include garments that are graphic, shredded, torn, too revealing, or too tight (e.g., pajamas, crop tops, ripped jeans, shirts with characters/logos/words, or short shorts/skirts).

### Video Upload Tips:

You may upload each element separately, but each video should be unedited. Please label each file with the component name (e.g., Scale).

Some phones—especially iPhones—save videos in formats that our application platform can't read, which can cause your file to upload backwards, upside down, or not at all. If your file won't upload, it is almost always because of the file type.

For videos, MP4 or MOV files are best.

If you took your audition videos on an iPhone, your phone may save it as HEVC (video) file, and these often won't upload correctly on our application platform. We recommend first converting it to MP4/MOV file, then uploading. See tips for converting your file/s below.

Option 1: Use a converter website

- Search for "HEVC to MP4" (videos).
- Upload → convert → download → then upload to your application.

Option 2: Use a computer

- Move the file to a computer; videos usually convert automatically when moved to a computer.



Evaluation Criteria:

**PLEASE NOTE:** OSAI audition scores may be used to determine chamber music or orchestra seating assignments, so prepare for the OSAI audition accordingly.

**Scale – 10%**

Does the applicant play all pitches accurately? Higher scores should be given to applicants who play all pitches accurately and evenly throughout the whole range with proper intonation.

**Solo & Excerpt – 40%**

Does the applicant demonstrate a high level of artistry and musicality, including well-shaped phrases and dynamics performed with expression and musical character?

**Overall Tone – 12.5%**

Is the applicant's tone full, rich, and characteristic of the tone quality of the instrument in all ranges?

**Overall Intonation – 12.5%**

Does the applicant display accurate intonation throughout all ranges and registers?

**Overall Technique – 12.5%**

Does the applicant demonstrate advanced bowing techniques, clean shifts, accurate dynamics, and attentiveness to stylistic markings?

**Overall Rhythm – 12.5%**

Does the applicant use a consistent tempo and accurate rhythms throughout?

Read general information about our evaluation process here:

<https://oaiquartz.org/application-selection-process>



**3-Octave C Major Scale**

**EXCERPT #2**

*Danse Bacchanale, Saint-Saëns*  
2/4 time, quarter note = 120

**EXCERPT #6**

*Overture to The Cowboys, Williams*  
4/4 time, quarter note = 132