



Music • Education • Collaboration

2025-2026 CHAMBER MUSIC ACADEMY

Chamber Music Academy auditions are intended to determine readiness to participate in the program as well as for group placement purposes (determining students who are a good match for each other). Students should prepare according to the below guidelines to the best of their ability.

PLACEMENT AUDITION GUIDELINES (all instruments):

One (1) prepared solo piece

- Choose a piece of music that you have learned recently and that has been prepared to performance level. This could be a movement from a larger solo piece like a sonata or a concerto, or an etude or study of your choice. A solo or piece from a method book (like Suzuki books) is also acceptable.
- The chosen music should be at least half a page long.
- A piece of music written for orchestra or band is not preferred as these typically will not demonstrate a wide enough range of skills.
- *String players:* your music choice should demonstrate your current shifting ability.
- Memorization is not required.

One (1) major scale, ascending (up) and descending (down)

- The key of the scale is the applicant's choice
- Play as many octaves as you can play proficiently

Sight-reading

- Sight-reading music will be a significant portion of the audition.
- Applicants will be given multiple excerpts they have not seen or played before (not more than 2-3 lines per excerpt).
- A short period of time is given to work through the excerpt before playing it out loud.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE AUDITION

- Please bring a copy of the solo music you will play.
- Applicants arriving prior to their scheduled audition time will be offered time to warm up on their instrument. The warm up area may be shared with other applicants.
- The applicant and AFA Teaching Artist/Staff are the only people present in the audition room.
- In addition to playing music, applicants will also talk with the AFA Teaching Artist/Staff member about their musical experiences so far.
- Auditions typically last 15-20 minutes.