



Music • Education • Collaboration

2026 SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL Audition Guidelines

String Institute

Violin, viola, cello, bass, and harp

Currently in grades 3–8

At least 1 year playing experience & ability to read music

AFA auditions are intended to determine readiness for the session the applicant has applied for and not to be competitive. Students should prepare their audition to the best of their ability according to the guidelines; **if there is anything unfamiliar to the student in the guidelines, or if further clarification is needed, please reach out to AFA.**

SCALES

- Prepare at least two of the scales listed below for your instrument
- Include the arpeggio for the scale *if you know it*
- Use shifting *where you are able/when necessary*
- Prepare 2 octaves of your chosen scales. **If you are newer to scales** and can only play 1 octave, that is fine. If you are more experienced and can play 3-octave scales, please do so.

Note: Please choose the scales that you feel most comfortable playing but that show your ability level. *If you have not worked on scales much yet and/or would like a scale sheet to look at, please let us know.*

Violin: D Major; A Major; F Major; G Major

Viola: G Major; D Major; F Major; C Major

Cello: G Major; D Major; F Major; C Major

Bass: D Major; C Major; F Major; G Major

Harp: 2 Major scales in at least 2 octaves (key of your choice)

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SOLO REPERTOIRE

Prepare one solo piece of music written for your instrument

- Your music may be a study etude, part of a concerto or other solo piece of music; orchestra music would not be the best choice for this audition.
- Select music that demonstrates your knowledge of shifting, vibrato, and/or any advanced techniques.
- The selection should be half a page or more of music.

SIGHTREADING

Each applicant will complete a short sight-reading exercise, meaning they will be given very short excerpts of music they have not seen before to play during the audition (they will have a short amount of time to practice it).

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