



Music • Education • Collaboration

2026-2027 CHAMBER MUSIC ACADEMY

Chamber Music Academy auditions are intended to determine readiness to participate in the program and for group placement purposes (determining students who are a good match for each other, musically and otherwise). Students should prepare according to the below guidelines to the best of their ability, even students who have participated in the Chamber Music Academy previously.

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 one page long; *pianists: your piece should be at least 2-3 pages 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; if you do intend to play the piece memorized, be sure to bring a printed copy of the music with you.

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 will be a significant portion of the audition.
- Applicants will be given multiple short excerpts of music from pieces they have not seen or played before.
- 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 will be offered time and space to warm up, assuming they arrive before their schedule audition time. 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.