



PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

The following audition requirements will help students prepare videos or live auditions for placement in the 2026-27 season. *Students who have questions about ensemble placement or audition requirements should speak with their private teacher or contact the JCC Thurnauer School of Music office at 201-408-1461.*

Video Auditions for Fall 2026 Ensembles

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS AT THURANUER AND AMANI CHOIRS

Category	Requirement
Prepared Songs	Sing "Happy Birthday" and "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" a cappella (without accompaniment).

STRING CAMERATA

All String Camerata applicants should prepare:

- 1 major scale, 1 octave (slurred)
- 1 minor scale, 1 octave (separate)
- A prepared solo selected in consultation with the student's teacher from standard literature for the instrument
- Suggested repertoire level: Suzuki Book 2 through early Book 4

All String Camerata auditions are evaluated for tone quality, dynamics, musical expression, and overall musicianship.

Instrument	Instrument-Specific Skills & Standards
Violin	• Able to shift and play in the first three positions with ease • Good extension technique • Understanding and execution of separate vs. slurred bowings
Viola	• Good extension technique • Understanding and execution of separate vs. slurred bowings
Cello	• Well-balanced posture and body motion • Able to shift and play in the first three positions with ease • Good extension technique
Bass	• Half-position, second position, and third position • Understanding of slurred vs. staccato articulation • Beginning shifting technique

THURNAUER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

All Thurnauer Symphony Orchestra auditions are evaluated for tone quality, dynamics, musical expression, and overall musicianship.

Instrument	Scales	Solo Requirement	Instrument-Specific Skills & Standards
Violin	• 1 major scale, 3 octaves (slurred) • 1 minor scale, 3 octaves (separate)	Prepared solo selected in consultation with the student's teacher from standard violin literature. Suggested repertoire level: Suzuki Book 4 and above.	• Able to shift and play in different positions with ease • Good extension technique • Understanding and execution of separate vs. slurred bowings
Viola	• 1 major scale, 3 octaves (slurred) • 1 minor scale, 1 octave (separate)	Prepared solo selected in consultation with the student's teacher from standard viola literature. Suggested repertoire level: Suzuki Book 4 and above.	• Able to shift to different positions with ease • Good extension technique • Ability to bow on the sounding point with good bow direction
Cello	• 1 major scale, 3 octaves (slurred) • 1 minor scale, 3 octaves (separate)	Prepared solo selected in consultation with the student's teacher from standard cello literature. Suggested repertoire level: Suzuki Book 4 and above.	• Able to shift with ease • Experience playing in 5th through 7th positions • Basic tenor clef knowledge • Basic understanding of a healthy vibrato
Double Bass	• 1 major scale, 1 octave (slurred) • 1 minor scale, 1 octave (separate)	Prepared solo selected in consultation with the student's teacher from standard bass literature. Suggested repertoire level: Suzuki Book 4 and above.	• Able to shift on the neck with ease • Understanding of staccato, spiccato, détaché, and slurs

Instrument	Scales	Solo Requirement	Instrument-Specific Skills & Standards
Harp	• Scale of your choice in 3 octaves • 16th notes ascending and descending • Hands together • Quarter note = 50-60	• Two contrasting solos of approximately 3 minutes each • One prepared solo is acceptable	• Prepare an orchestral excerpt of the teacher's choice • Demonstrate contrasting musical styles through prepared repertoire
Winds & Brass	• 1 major scale, 1 octave (legato) • 1 minor scale, 1 octave (staccato)	Solo of your choice demonstrating your current level of playing	• Knowledge of all major scales throughout the full range of the instrument • Legato articulation • Staccato articulation • Double-tonguing (brass) • Horn: familiarity with standard transpositions • Trombone: familiarity with alto and tenor clef • Bassoon: proficiency in tenor clef
Percussion	N/A	Solo on either: • Mallet/keyboard percussion • Snare drum • Timpani	• All applicants must also perform: Snare Drum: rudimentary rolls, flams, paradiddles Timpani: long roll from <i>ppp</i> to <i>fff</i> and interval tuning to perfect 4ths and perfect 5ths

CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Category	Requirement
Repertoire	Prepare two pieces of your choice that contrast with one another: one slower selection and one livelier selection.
Performance Format	Pieces may be performed with piano accompaniment or unaccompanied.
Video Submission	Recital performances are acceptable for submission.

THURNAUER CELLO CHOIR

Category	Requirement
Major Scale	2- or 3-octave major scale
Minor Scale	2- or 3-octave melodic minor scale
Solo	Prepare a polished solo piece of your choice

JUNIOR AND SENIOR COMMUNITY FLUTE CHOIRS

Category	Requirement
Solo	Solo piece of your choice.
Additional Assessment (In-Person Auditions)	Students may be asked to perform major scales and sight-read a short excerpt.

COLTRANE SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE

Category	Requirement
Solo	A piece of your choice
Major Scales	3 major scales
Chromatic Scale	1 chromatic scale

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Category	Requirement
Solo Requirement	Prepare a solo on mallet percussion, keyboard percussion, drum set, hand drums, snare drum, or timpani.
Snare Drum	Demonstrate rudimentary rolls, flams, and paradiddles.
Timpani	Perform a long roll from <i>ppp</i> to <i>fff</i> and demonstrate interval tuning to perfect 4ths and perfect 5ths.
Drum Set	Demonstrate basic rock and jazz patterns.

GUIDE FOR SUBMITTING AUDITION VIDEOS

TIPS ON MAKING YOUR VIDEOS

To ensure that audition reviewers can accurately evaluate your performance, please follow these guidelines:

Video Setup

- Make sure the student is clearly visible and easy to hear.
- The student's full body should be visible throughout the performance. For pianists, the pedals should also be visible.
- Record in a well-lit space and avoid strong back-lighting.
- Position the camera directly in front of the performer rather than above or below.
- Use a stable surface or tripod. Do not record using a hand-held device.

Attire

- Wear attire appropriate for a recital, audition, or formal performance.

Sound Quality

- An external microphone may be used but is not required.
- Tune your instrument before recording whenever possible.
- Choose a quiet location with minimal background noise.

Recording Requirements

- All videos must be submitted as a single, unedited recording.

WHERE TO UPLOAD YOUR VIDEOS

Important: Please name your video file using the student's full name and ensemble. For example:

Jane_Smith_String_Camerata.mp4.

To audition for a Thurnauer ensemble using a pre-recorded video, upload your recording to the appropriate folder below:

Ensemble	Upload Link
Young People's Chorus at Thurnauer	Upload Here
String Camerata	Upload Here
Thurnauer Symphony Orchestra	Upload Here
Thurnauer Cello Choir	Upload Here
Chamber Music	Upload Here
Junior & Senior Community Flute Choirs	Upload Here
Coltrane Saxophone Ensemble	Upload Here
Percussion Ensemble	Upload Here