

Fall 2024 Sonoma State Symphony Orchestra Audition packet: Bass

Auditions consist of scales and orchestral excerpts.

Scales: please prepare the following two scales using all of the articulations below.

1. D-flat major scale and arpeggio; two octaves preferred, one octave acceptable.
2. E melodic minor scale and arpeggio; two octaves preferred, one octave acceptable.
 - a. In whole notes, one note per bow, using the whole bow, rich sound, and vibrato (whole notes at approximately quarter=120)
 - b. With slurs of your choosing, as quickly as you feel comfortable while maintaining tone quality and intonation – anything from 2 to 12 notes per bow.
 - c. Sautillé sixteenth notes at the balance point, quickly, repeating each note of the scale four or eight times.
 - d. Spiccato eighth notes, moderately, repeating each note of the scale four times.

Note: Regular and dedicated practice of scales and arpeggios in a variety of tempi and articulations is **strongly encouraged** of all string players. Nathan Cole's [Scales the Road to Repertoire](#) is a great resource for working on scales.

Excerpts:

1. Mahler, Symphony No. 1, Movement 3 opening
2. Dvorak, Symphony No. 9, "New World," movement 1, rehearsal 6 – rehearsal 9

Tips on taking a successful audition

If possible, bring all music to a teacher early on (i.e. 1-2 months ahead of the audition) for advice and guidance on appropriate fingering, bowing, breathing, tonguing, practice strategies, etc. In addition, many (free) masterclasses on standard excerpts and audition strategies (how to prepare excerpts, how to deal with nerves, etc.) can be found on Youtube. See for example: <https://www.robknopper.com/auditionhacker>, <https://bulletproofmusician.com/>, and <https://stringsmagazine.com/12-ways-to-ace-your-orchestral-audition/>.

Get a concrete idea of the appropriate tempi (metronome markings), phrasing, articulations, etc. for your excerpts by listening to recordings. For the Dvorak I recommend [the recent recording by the Concertgebouw Orchestra and Klaus Makela](#). Repeated listenings to this recording (and others) while following along with your part will help you immensely.

Do a "mock audition" (or several mock auditions) by playing through your scales and excerpts in front of others for feedback and to simulate the stress factor of playing in front of other people.

Relax, breathe, and be kind to yourself! Remember that everyone gets nervous before auditions – a little bit of meditation, yoga, and/or positive imagery before the audition will go a long way.

Excerpt 1

Double Bass

Mahler: Symphony No. 1 - Mvmt. 3

Fierlich und gemessen, ohne zu schleppen



P mit dämpfer



For Audition Purposes Only

EASTERN MUSIC FESTIVAL AUDITION EXCERPT

Excerpt page 1

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CONTRABASSO

Handwritten musical score for Contrabasso, page 1, measures 103-223. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It includes various musical notations such as dynamics (pp, p, f, sf, ff), articulation (arco, pizz., dim., cresc.), and performance instructions (viola, 4 or 4). The score is divided into systems, with measures 103-111, 121-130, 139-149, 161-169, 177-186, and 214-223. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the instruction "end ex 3".

Measures 103-111: *viola*, *arco*, *pp*, *molto cresc.*, *pizz.*, *sim*

Measures 121-130: *4 or 4*, *f*, *dim.*, *p*, *f*, *pp*, *f*, *sf*, *p*

Measures 139-149: *p*, *dim.*, *pp*, *pizz.*

Measures 161-169: *arco*, *cresc.*, *ff*, *2nd End*

Measures 177-186: *1.*, *2.*, *end ex 1*, *ff*, *f*, *pizz.*, *f*, *15*, *ex 3*, *arco*, *ppp*

Measures 214-223: *ff*, *end ex 3*

Excerpt 2 page 2

CONTRABASSO

Handwritten musical score for Contrabasso, measures 237-309. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It includes various musical notations such as dynamics (p, ff, cresc., ppp, arco), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions (pizz., arco). Measure numbers 237, 240, 250, 258, 272, 279, 287, 295, 302, 309, 316, and 309 are marked on the left. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.