

**Fall 2024 Sonoma State Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble Audition packet:
Piano**

Auditions consist of etudes and excerpts, as follows:

Etude: Please prepare an etude (or an excerpt of an etude) of your choice, demonstrating your technical and expressive abilities. One - three minutes of music is ideal.

Excerpts

- 1. Bernstein, “Mambo,” from *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story***
- 2. Respighi, excerpt from *Pines of Rome*, movement three**

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> and <https://bulletproofmusician.com/>

Get a concrete idea of the appropriate tempi (metronome markings), phrasing, articulations, etc. for your excerpts by listening to recordings. Repeated listenings to recordings 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 No. 1

404

Mambo
Meno presto (♩ = 132)

Bernstein: West Side Story (Mambo)

8va

Musical score for measures 404-409. The score is written for piano in treble and bass clefs. It features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The tempo is marked 'Meno presto' with a quarter note equal to 132 beats per minute. The dynamic is 'ff' (fortissimo). There are many accents and slurs throughout the passage.

410

loco

Musical score for measures 410-419. The score continues with the same complex rhythmic pattern. The tempo is marked 'loco' (ad libitum). The dynamic is 'ff'.

420

loco

Musical score for measures 420-429. The score continues with the same complex rhythmic pattern. The tempo is marked 'loco'. The dynamic is 'ff'.

Musical score for measures 430-439. The score continues with the same complex rhythmic pattern. The dynamic is 'ff'.

430

Musical score for measures 440-449. The score continues with the same complex rhythmic pattern. The dynamic is 'ff'.

Musical score for measures 450-459. The score continues with the same complex rhythmic pattern. The dynamic is 'ff'.

Excerpt No. 2

Respighi: Pines of Rome (movement II)

Lento

pp

This system of musical notation is for the first system of the excerpt. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo marking "Lento" is placed above the first staff. The music begins with a half note on G4 in the treble and a half note on G2 in the bass. A piano (*pp*) dynamic marking is placed above the first staff. A long, sweeping melodic line is written across both staves, starting with a half note on G4 and ending with a half note on G4. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some notes in the bass clef. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

rall.

dim.

dim.

rall.

This system of musical notation is for the second system of the excerpt. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music begins with a half note on G4 in the treble and a half note on G2 in the bass. A decrescendo (*dim.*) dynamic marking is placed above the first staff. A *rall.* (rallentando) marking is placed above the first staff. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some notes in the bass clef. The piece concludes with a double bar line and an asterisk (*) below the bass staff.