

Fall 2023 Sonoma State Symphony Orchestra Audition packet: Violin

Auditions consist of scales and excerpts from Brahms' Symphony No. 4

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

1. C major scale and arpeggio; three octaves preferred, two octaves acceptable.
2. E melodic minor scale and arpeggio; three octaves preferred, two octaves acceptable.
 - a. In whole notes, one note per bow, using the whole bow, rich sound, and vibrato (whole notes at approximately quarter=72)
 - 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 times.
 - d. Spicatto 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.

Excerpts:

1A. Brahms Symphony No. 4, violin 1, movement 2, letter E through F

1B. Brahms Symphony No. 4, violin 1, movement 3, letter H through end of movement

2A. Brahms Symphony No. 4, violin 2, movement 2, letter B through end of page

2B. Brahms Symphony No. 4, violin 2, movement 3, letter H through end of movement

Violinists who wish to be considered for both the first and second violin sections should prepare the first violin excerpts (1A and 1B); violinists who wish to be considered for the second violin section **only** should prepare the second violin excerpts (2A and 2B).

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 Brahms I recommend the recent recording by the Oslo Philharmonic (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4UScRNrb5M&t=2056s>). 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 1A

Brahms — Symphony No. 4 in E Minor

Violine I

Musical score for Violin I, Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, measures 79-115. The score is written in E minor (three sharps) and 4/4 time. It features various dynamics, articulations, and performance instructions. Key markings include **E** and **F** in boxes, *ff*, *dim.*, *p*, *pp*, *arco*, *pizz.*, *fespr.*, *poco fespr.*, *a tempo*, *poco rit.*, *save*, and *sul G*. Fingerings and bowings are indicated throughout the piece.

Excerpt 2A

Brahms — Symphony No. 4 in E Minor

Violine II

424 *f*

428 *f*

432 *f*

1 = 70
inc

II. Andante moderato

Hr. III IV Ob I *pizz.* *pp*

6

12 *pp* *f* **A**

17 *pp* 1

23 2

29 *p* **B** *arco* *criso.*

33 3 2 3 8 *f*

37 *UH* *sustain* *f* →

Excerpt 2B

Brahms — Symphony No. 4 in E Minor

Violine II

12

239 *p*

240 *dim.* *cresc.* *f*

261 *ben marc.* *cresc.*

270 *ff*

281 *p marc.* **H**

295 *cresc.* *fp*

301 *cresc.* *f*

307 *ff*

314 *ff marc.* **I**

327

334 **K**

340

347 *ff*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for Violin II, measures 239 to 347. The score is written in a single system with ten staves. The key signature is E minor (three flats). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a variety of dynamics, including piano (*p*), fortissimo (*ff*), and fortissimo marcato (*ff marc.*). There are several crescendos and decrescendos. The score includes various articulations such as accents, slurs, and breath marks. There are also some performance instructions like *ben marc.* and *dim.*. The score is marked with letters H, I, and K in boxes. There are also some numbers in boxes, such as 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The music is a complex, rhythmic passage with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes.