FYO Audition Procedures for Strings
2022-2023 Season

Ensemble placement and seating for the Fairbanks Youth Orchestras will be determined by an audition panel.

You will be assessed on:

- the difficulty of the selections that you choose
- your rhythm
- your tone quality
- your musicality

Please prepare the following for your audition:

1. Solo Repertoire

    - Please prepare a 2-minute excerpt from a piece in the solo repertoire for your instrument.
    - This may consist of a solo from your current Suzuki level, or another work that you have prepared for performance.

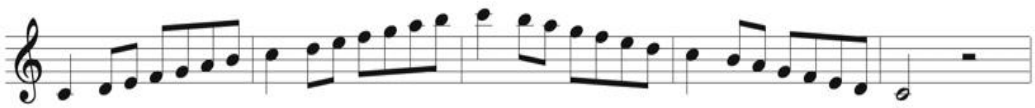
2. Excerpts

    - The excerpts are organized in an increasing level of difficulty
    - Students interested in being considered for the String Orchestra and Concert Orchestra should prepare one excerpt. If you are interested in being considered for the Youth Symphony, please prepare TWO consecutively numbered excerpts.
    - Please choose the most difficult excerpt that you feel you can play well.

3. Scales

    - String Orchestra - Please prepare the 1 or 2 octave scale of your choice.
    - Concert Orchestra - Please prepare the 2 or 3 octave major scales of your choice.
    - Youth Symphony - Please prepare the 3 octave scale D major scale **and** the 3 octave D Melodic Minor scale.

    Scales should be performed in the following fashion, or a fashion of equivalent style and tempo:



4. Sight Reading

   You will be presented with music that you have never seen before at your audition. You will have a short, specified amount of time to look at the music before performing it for the panel.

FAQs

Which excerpts should I choose?

1. We recommend that you print out all 7 excerpts for your respective instrument. Play through them, take them to your private teacher, and decide which excerpts you want to prepare for your audition.
2. It is important that you pick excerpts that you are going to be able to play with great intonation, rhythmic precision, a steady tempo (at the metronome marking indicated), and all dynamics, articulation, style, and bow stroke considerations.
3. Avoid picking excerpts that are too difficult (or too easy) for you. Doing so will not help the conductors assess you accurately, especially if they are too hard for you. You might have big goals to be in a certain ensemble, but if you pick music that is beyond your abilities, it only shows us that you are not ready to play the level of music which that ensemble plays. We want everyone to have a confident audition.
4. You must play all excerpts within the tempo range indicated at the beginning of the excerpt. Playing excerpts too slowly, or with hesitations will significantly affect your audition results. If you start an excerpt outside of the tempo range indicated, you may be asked to stop and begin again within the indicated range. Be sure to practice with a metronome.
5. You must adhere to all bowings marked in the excerpt. **Fingerings are suggestions and are not mandatory**.
6. Even though you will select the excerpts for the orchestra you hope to make, there is NO GUARANTEE that you will qualify for that orchestra. If you are unable to demonstrate proficiency on those excerpts, you WILL be considered for another one of our orchestras. In other words, if you prepare the excerpts for the Youth Symphony and are unable to play them at a high-performance level, you can and will still be considered for Concert Orchestra or String Orchestra.

What are the <u>minimum</u> required excerpts for each orchestra?

Here are the MINIMUM excerpts that you should prepare for each of our 3 orchestras:

- STRING ORCHESTRA: Players auditioning for String Orchestra should prepare excerpts 1 or 2.

- CONCERT ORCHESTRA: Players who wish to be considered for Concert Orchestra should prepare excerpt 3, 4, or 5. You may also prepare excerpt 6 or 7 if you wish to be considered for a principal position.

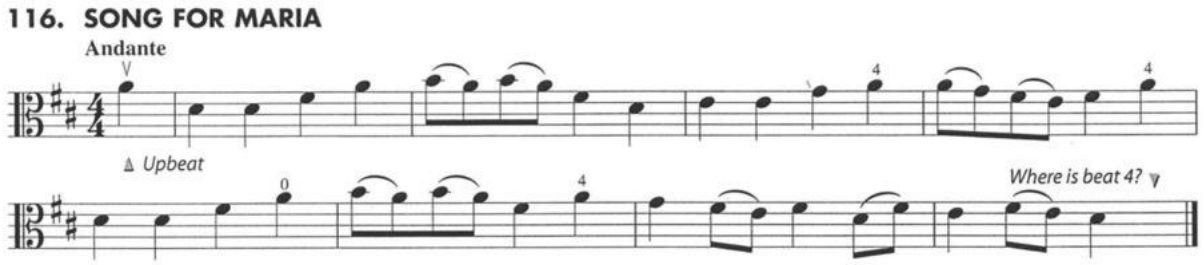
- YOUTH SYMPHONY: Players who wish to be considered for the Youth Symphony should prepare two consecutively-numbered excerpts from 5, 6, or 7.

Viola

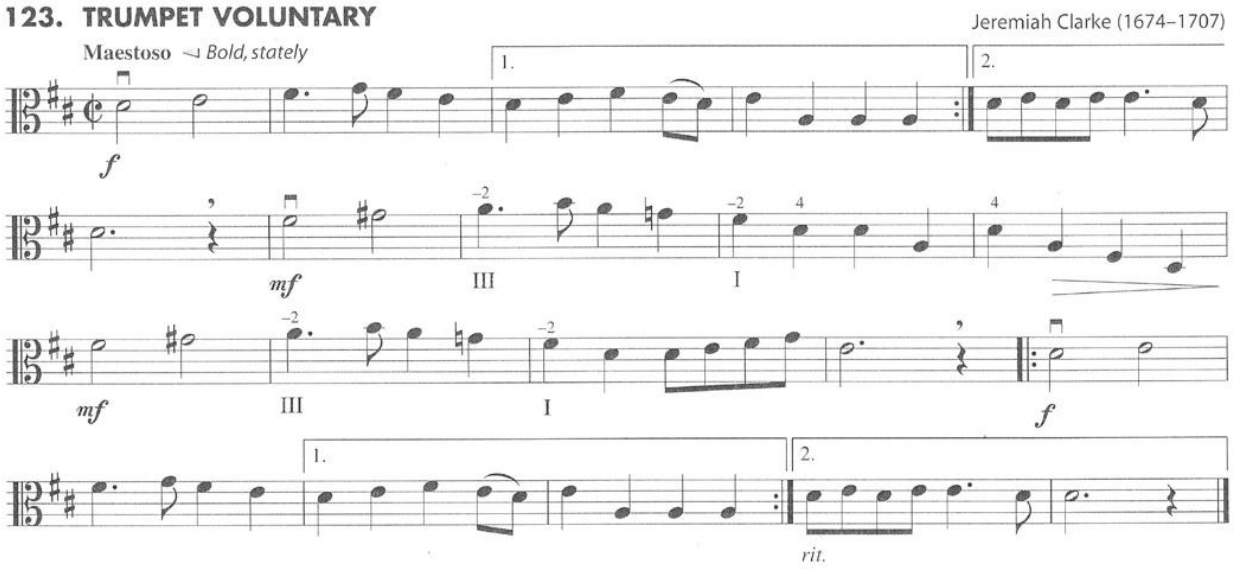
Fairbanks Youth Orchestras

Audition Excerpts

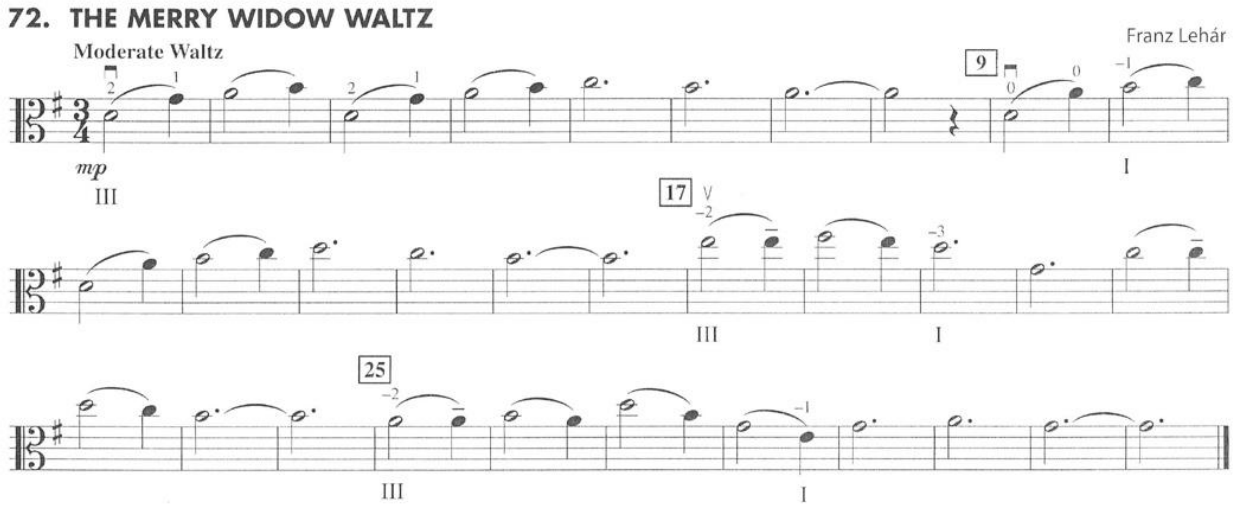
Excerpt #1 – *Song for Maria*



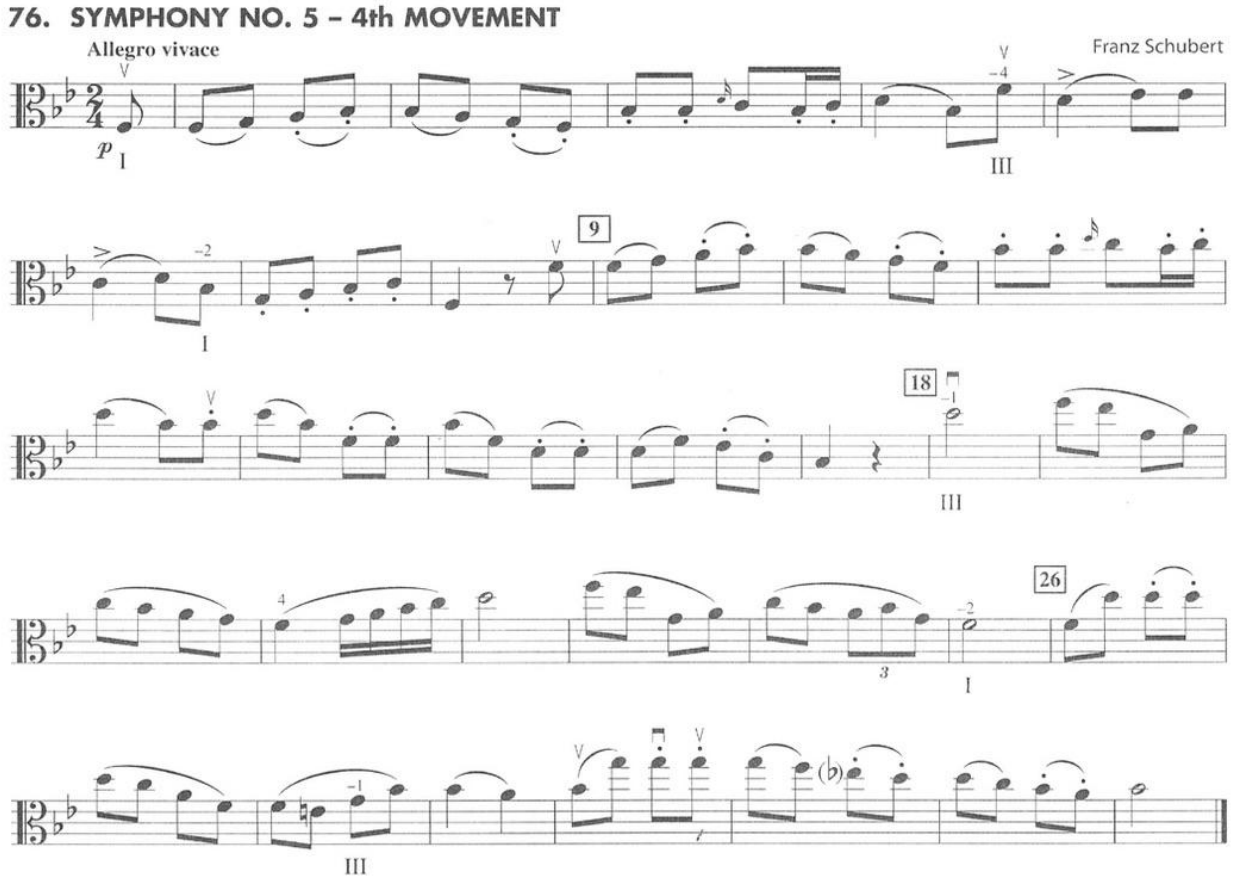
Excerpt #2 – *Trumpet Voluntary* by Jeremiah Clarke



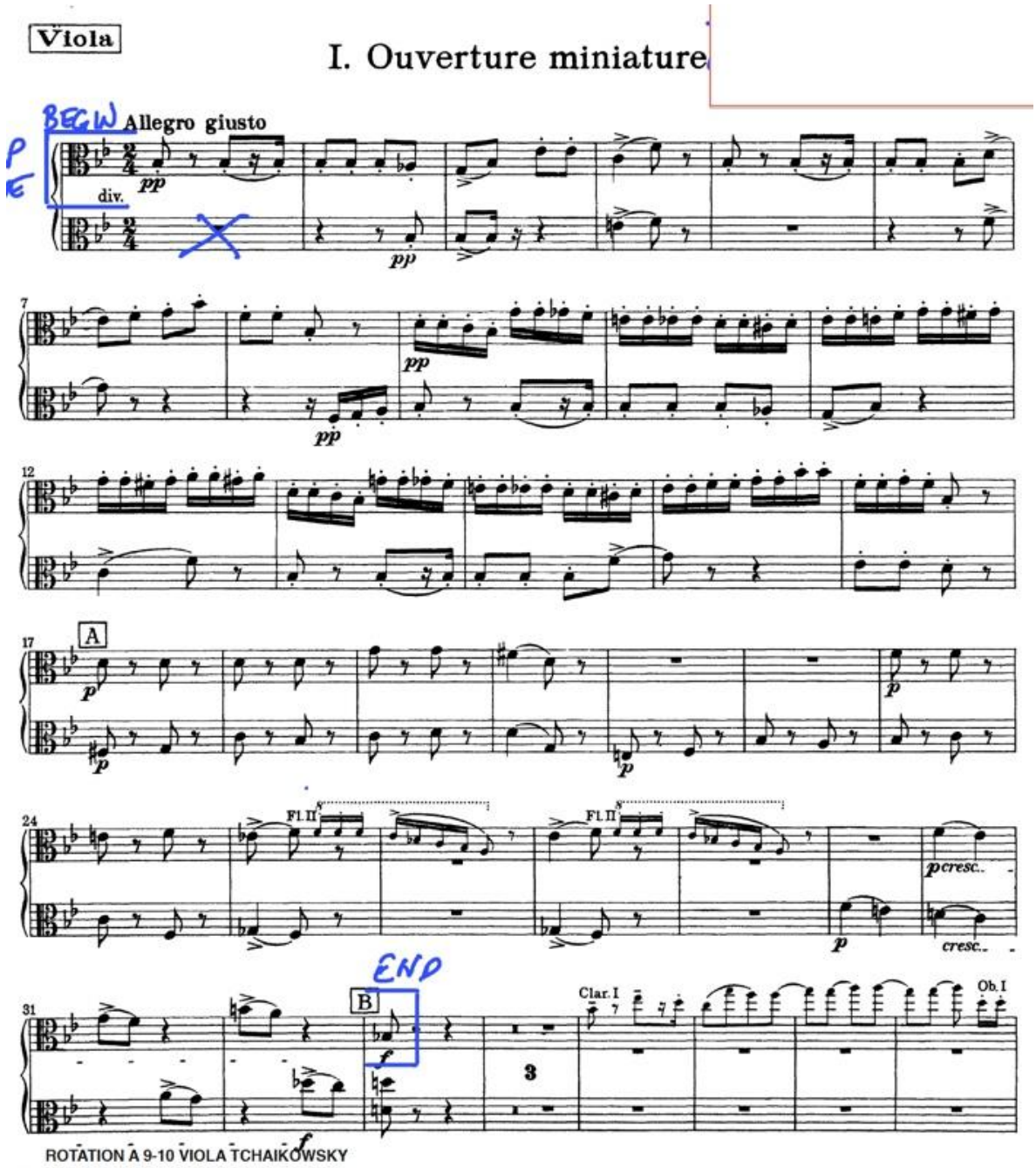
Excerpt #3 – *The Merry Widow Waltz* by Franz Lehar



Excerpt #4 – *Symphony No. 5, Mvmt. 4* by Franz Schubert



Excerpt #5 – Ouverture miniature from Nutcracker Suite by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky



Excerpt #6 – *Variations on a Theme by Haydn – Variation V* by Johannes Brahms
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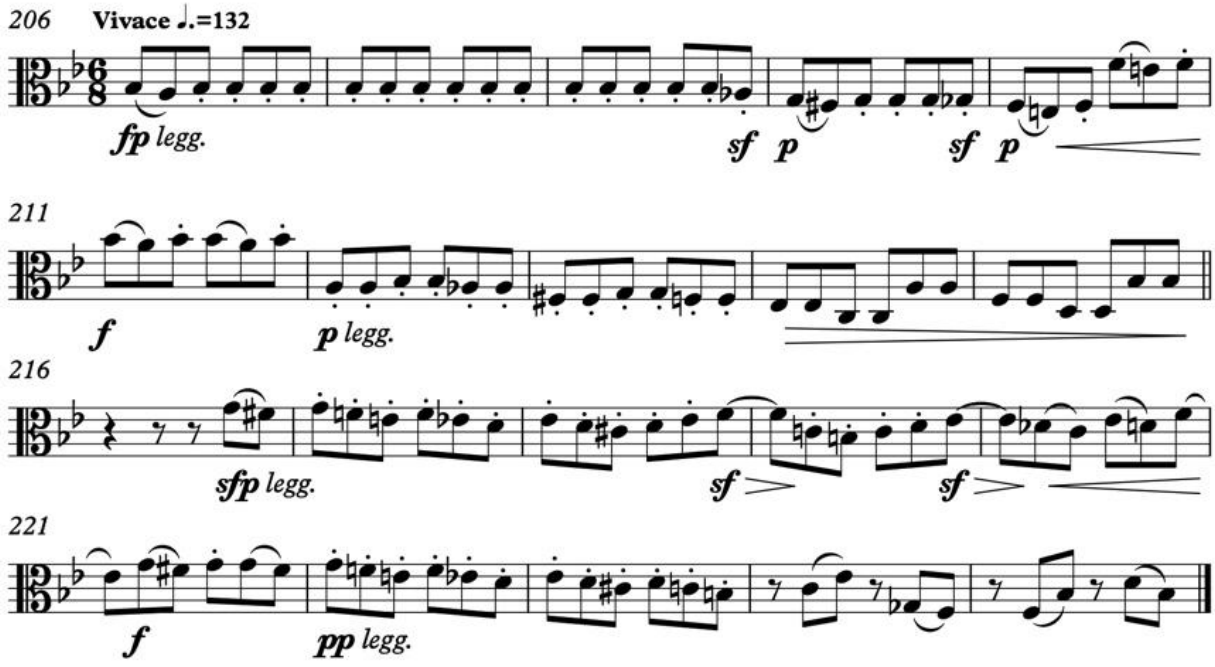
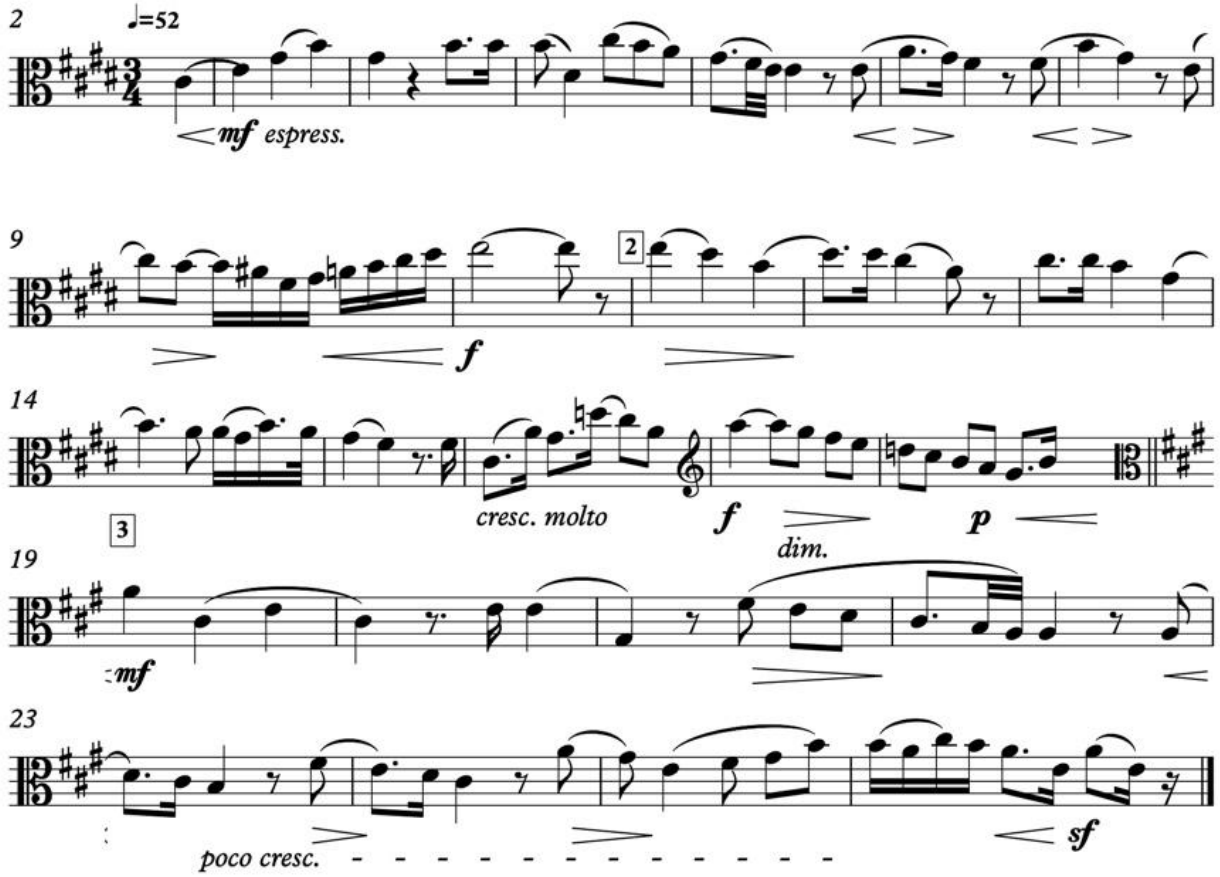
Excerpt #7 – *Roman Carnival Overture* by Hector Berlioz
(2022-2023 ALASKA ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA EXCERPT)