

Location: WWU Performing Arts Center

Check in: From the performing arts center main lobby, you will be pointed to the check in table.

Preparation:

Audition instructions can be found on the BSO website (www.bellingham-symphony.org). Please read the audition instructions carefully and prepare the appropriate selections. Plan to play the selections in the order listed. Suggested metronome markings are included in some of the listed excerpts. If metronome markings are not included in a particular excerpt, you must use your best judgment (based on standard practice and recordings) to choose a tempo.

Bring **6 copies** of your solo piece to the audition. These copies cannot be made at the audition location, so please come prepared.

If auditioning for a Principal or Assistant Principal position, **a resume must be submitted two weeks in advance via email.**

Please contact and submit audition forms (and resumes) to the Personnel Manager by May 15th to schedule your audition. Email materials to operations@bellingshamsymphony.org, the Personnel Manager will contact you with your scheduled audition time.

Audition Process:

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before your scheduled time (although it is recommended that you arrive earlier). After checking in at the check-in table, you will be directed to a warm-up room by a BSO representative. At the appropriate time, you will be escorted to your audition. The auditions will take place behind a screen. As such, it is important to not speak during your audition. There will be an audition proctor present to answer any of your questions and to help you communicate with the committee if need be. Your audition will be heard by the music director, the audition committee, and a representative principal player of your instrument.

Audition Results: The Personnel Manager will notify you of the results of your audition after the audition committee has deliberated and come to a decision.

Note to Students Auditioning for BSO: In order to participate in the BSO, you must continue your participation in your school orchestra or band or have permission from your high school music director.

About the BSO: The Bellingham Symphony Orchestra is a volunteer based orchestra that performs 6 full concerts each year at the Mount Baker Theatre. For more information, please visit www.bellingshamsymphony.org.

Health & Safety: Please see our [Health & Safety guidelines page](#) for our most up-to-date information.



Audition Form

Please fill out and submit to the Personnel Manager (operations@bellingshamsymphony.org).

Please note: A music performance resume is also a requirement for those auditioning for principal or assistant principal positions.

Name: _____

Instrument: _____

Contact information

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

How many years have you played your primary instrument? _____

Do you play any other instruments? _____

Please briefly provide some information about your musical training:

Please briefly provide some information about groups with whom you have performed and when:

Please describe any special musical accomplishments or awards you have received:



Audition Excerpts

For PDFs of excerpts, contact operations@bellingshamsymphony.com.

Violin

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Mozart: Symphony 39, 1st movement measure 26-96
3. Beethoven: Symphony 9, 3rd movement measure 99-114
4. Brahms: Symphony 4, 2nd movement , measure 88-101
5. Mendelssohn: A Midsummer Night's Dream, scherzo, measure 17- letter C

Viola

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Mozart: Overture to the Magic Flute, mm. 27- A, and 2nd measure of B to 7th measure of B
3. Tchaikovsky: Symphonie Pathetique
4. Brahms: Symphony No. 3, mvt I, L to M

Cello

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
3. Debussy: La Mer, mvt I, 2 before #9 to 6 after #9
4. Mozart: Symphony no. 40, mvt I, pickup to 114-134
5. Beethoven: Symphony No. 5, mvt 2, mm.1-9 / 50-5 downbeat / 98-106
6. Louise Ferrenc Symphony No. 3, Op 36, met 4 ms. 135-downbeat of 167

Bass

1. 1 Minute solo of your choice
2. Beethoven Symphony no. 7, mvt. 1 mm 13 - 23
3. Beethoven Symphony no. 7, mvt. 1 mm 83 - 112
4. Ferrenc Symphony no. 3, mvt. 1 mm 192 - 216
5. Montgomery Banner, mm 117 - 155 (stop on the first beat at the end of the tie, i.e., no cadenza)



Flute

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Standard Concerto: Mozart Flute Concerto in G, Letter A though the end of page one.
3. Coleman: beginning to the fermata in measure 13
4. Beethoven: Overture, Leonore No. 3, adagio
5. Mendelssohn: A Midsummer Night's Dream, scherzo, 12 before P to 23 after Q
6. Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor, mvt IV, mm.89-105, quarter note = 66-70

Piccolo

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Shostakovich: Symphony no. 9
 - a. mvt I, mm.1-29
3. Rimsky-Korsakov: Scheherazade
 - a. mvt III, 1 before G to 1 after H
 - b. mvt IV, P to 31 after P

Oboe

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Exposition of Mozart Oboe Concerto
3. Chevalier de Saint-George: Symphony No. 2, m 32-51
4. Farrenc: Symphony No. 3
 - mvt I m 81-94
 - mvt III m 157-208
5. Montgomery: Hymn for Everyone
 - m 82-104
 - m 148-157
6. Strauss: Don Juan, slow solo four measures after letter L to 2 measures after letter N

English Horn

1. Dvorak: Symphony No. 9 "New World," mvt II, beginning to rehearsal 1
2. Rossini: William Tell Overture, Andante 20 measures before F to Allegro vivace)

Clarinet

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Rachmaninoff: Symphony no. 2, mvt III, beginning to 47 (A)
3. Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio Espagnol, mvt IV, 4 measures after L to 7 measures before M- cadenza
4. Mendelssohn: A Midsummer Night's Dream, scherzo, beginning to E (Bb)
5. Beethoven: Symphony no. 6 (Bb)
 - a. mvt I, mm.474-492
 - b. mvt II, mm.68-82

****For Principal Clarinet, please prepare the exposition of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto - solo piece not necessary****

Bass Clarinet

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Grofe: Grand Canyon Suite
 - a. mvt II 1-2
 - b. mvt III 8 before 13 to 3 after 13
3. Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker Ballet
 - a. Danse Russe, Trepak B to C
 - b. Danse de la Fee-Dragee 9 before A to A
4. Gershwin: An American in Paris mm. 136-151

Bassoon

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Bartok: Concerto for Orchestra, Bsn I, mvt II
3. Bartok: Concerto for Orchestra, Bsn II, mvt V
4. Mozart: Marriage of Figaro, selections
5. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6, opening solo
6. Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique, mvt IV half note = 84
7. Brahms: Violin Concerto, Bsn II, mvt II, mm.1-32



Horn

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Brahms 1, 1st horn, mvmt 4, mm. 30-43
3. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5, mvt II, mm.8-28
4. Beethoven: Symphony No. 8, mvt III, pickups to mm.45-78
5. Mahler: Symphony No. 1, mvt I, 15 to 11 after 15
6. High Horn: One of the following:
 - a. Franck: Symphony in D Minor, mvt II, 7 measures before B to 1 measure after C
 - b. Brahms: Symphony No. 2, mvt I, 8 after M to mm. 477
 - c. Dvorak: Symphony No. 9, mvt IV, mm. 267-275
7. Low Horn: One of the following:
 - a. Mahler: Symphony No. 1, mvt III, 3 measures after 13 to 15
 - b. Beethoven: Symphony No. 9, mvt III, mm. 83-97

Trumpet

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Florence Price: Symphony No. 1, mvt. 1, mm. 205 - 240
3. Jennifer Higdon: Concerto for Orchestra, mvt. 1, mm. 216 - 235
4. Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition, Promenade, opening
5. Ravel: Piano Concerto in G, mvt I, 2-3
6. Stravinsky: Petrouchka, Ballerina's Dance
7. Haydn: Concerto for Trumpet, mvt I, exposition

Trombone

1. 1 minute solo of your choice
2. Mahler, Symphony #3, Mvt. 1, 4m before #14 to m17.
3. Brahms, Symphony #1 chorale, Piu Andante
4. Stravinsky, Firebird, Danse Infernale, 2 measures before #1 to #5 and second measure of #10 to second measure of #13.

Tuba

1. E Major Scale
2. Wagner: Die Walkure, pickup to 11 to four after 12
3. Copland: Symphony No. 3, Mvt. I, 6 to five after 10
4. Copland: Symphony No. 3, Mvt. II, pickup to 33 to 35
5. Respighi: Fountains of Rome, 11 to 14
6. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5, mvt IV, Aa to Presto before Cc
7. 1 minute solo of your choice

Percussion

1. On mallet instrument: B-flat major and D major scales and arpeggios, 2 octaves
 2. Xylophone: Saint Saens: Danse Macabre, 8 before C to C
 3. Snare: Rossini: La Gazza Ladra, first 11 bars
 4. Tambourine: Dvorak: Carnival Overture, mm.1-A, take 2nd ending
 5. Triangle: Moszkowski: Bolero, mm.10-17, 57-65
 6. Cymbals: Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4, mvt IV, 13 after box 1 to 24 after box 1
 7. 1 minute solo of your choice
- Percussion equipment will be provided upon request.

Keyboard

1. Solo of choice - not to exceed 3-4 min
2. Bernstein - Symphonic Dances - bars 400-438
3. Copland - Appalachian Spring - rehearsal 6-14
4. Tchaikovsky Sugar Plum on celesta
5. J. S. Bach 2nd orchestral suite in B Minor (just the introduction of the overture) on harpsichord
6. Opening of Bach Toccata in D minor on organ



Helpful Hints for Preparing an Audition

by the BSO Audition Committee

As a community based orchestra committed to ongoing growth in quality and repertoire and to serving an important role in the cultural life of our community, auditions are an important way for us to add new talented players and to tap the artistic resources of our community. Although a number of our players have quite accomplished and extensive musical résumés, many others have developed their skills through experience primarily in our orchestra, and a number of young players from our community have gone on from our orchestra to professional careers. We frequently audition players who, although they may seem very musical, have not had much experience in auditioning. Some come poorly prepared to show their true capabilities, and we have come to recognize that many such players would benefit from knowing specifically what our audition committee will be expecting and listening for during the audition. We hope these suggestions and observations can be useful to you in your preparation for the audition, and in your overall musical growth.

1. Play what is on the page. This includes note values, dynamics, articulations and accents, and the indicated tempo markings. Rests should be observed at full value unless excluded from the excerpt. The ability to play accurately is essential to a good orchestral ensemble, and judges will be listening for discipline in observation of the markings. The tempi will be at common performance tempi, and it is important for you to be able to demonstrate facility with the excerpts at those tempi.
2. Play rhythmic subdivisions accurately. Make sure you figure these out in all your excerpts. Working with a metronome can be very helpful.
3. Intonation is important, and you should be working with a tuner to dial this in.
4. If you are not familiar with the pieces you are auditioning on, listen to them. Recordings abound, and your playing will improve immensely as you hear your part within the whole. If you can, borrow a score or a full part and listen with that to hear your own part better.
5. Let your solo sing. A solo should allow you to display some of your technical and/or lyrical prowess and give us an idea of your ability to play expressively, within the limit of one minute. A short simple piece may be more effective than a minute of music extracted from a tour de force.