



# CKYO AUDITION INFORMATION

*What the judges are listening and watching for in your audition video and the placement process.*



**CKYO ENSEMBLE LEVELS:** When preparing an audition for CKYO, students should select an orchestra at the appropriate level based on the orchestral excerpts, scales, and additional musical and technical competencies and requirements listed for each classical ensemble.

**CKYO Classical Ensemble Levels** (listed in order from LEAST to MOST ADVANCED)

**Bravo String Orchestra:** *String only ensemble: Typical school grade levels 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>*

**Repertory Orchestra:** *First full symphonic orchestral experience at CKYO; Typical school grade levels 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>*

**Concert Orchestra:** *Second Most-Advanced; Typical school grade levels 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>*

**Symphony Orchestra:** *Most Advanced, Typical school grade levels 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>*

**Percussion Ensemble:** *Open to all middle and high school percussionists with at least 1 year of percussion experience*

**AUDITION RUBRIC and SCORING** – Full Rubric and Scoring Sheet Provided on the next page

Judges award an overall score for each skill category (left column of the rubric) for the **entire** audition performance. Scores will be totaled for each student and then orchestra section openings will be filled in order of scoring.

**ENSEMBLE PLACEMENT INFO:** CKYO will do our best to offer seats to as many students as possible who are meeting the proficiencies and requirements for each ensemble and presenting a complete audition at a level that ensures success in a CKYO orchestra. *Please note that each section in each orchestra has a select number of seats available based on the conductor's programming needs and space limitations for rehearsal and performance.*

Based on your audition video, the judges will place you in an ensemble or not offer you a placement for CKYO's 2026-2027 season. **There will be no feedback or comments provided to you about your audition video.**

- *Please note that judges may place you in a **less** advanced ensemble than for which you audition, but will not place you in a **more** advanced ensemble (i.e. if you audition for Concert Orchestra you could be placed in Concert, Repertory or Bravo String Orchestra or not offered placement if you are new to CKYO).*
- *CKYO Students who participated in an ensemble in 2025-2026 will not be placed in a lower ensemble than what they currently participate in regardless of their audition performance (i.e. you are in Repertory Orchestra and you audition for Concert Orchestra you would only be placed in Concert or Repertory Orchestras, not Bravo String Orchestra or given no placement).*

**In addition, judges take into consideration section openings based on returning students for each ensemble. It is possible that your audition may qualify you for an ensemble, but there are not enough open seats in that ensemble section to offer you a position.**

## Things the Judges Consider during your audition

- Rhythmic Accuracy / Rhythmic stability (steady tempo)
- Intonation (playing in-tune with yourself) / Tone Quality
- Instrument-specific technique
- Musicality, Expression, and Phrasing
- Appropriateness of repertoire for your technical level (solo)
- Ability to recover if you make a mistake
- Careful Preparation of all audition requirements (scales, excerpts, solos – if required for your audition)

## Things the Judges DO NOT Consider during your audition

- The audio and video quality of the device used to record
- Where you record your video (bedroom, living room, bathroom, etc. However, acoustics can be an issue if, for example, you record in your bathroom and the sound is unclear due to the echo )
- Race or ethnicity
- Gender or gender presentation
- Who your private teacher is or What school you attend
- How fancy or expensive your instrument is
- Other competitions you've won, auditions you've taken, or groups you've played with

**CKYO AUDITION RUBRIC**

	<b>EXCELLENT (25-30)</b>	<b>VERY GOOD (19-24)</b>	<b>GOOD (13-18)</b>	<b>FAIR (7-12)</b>	<b>POOR (0-6)</b>
<b>Tone &amp; Musicality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Characteristic sound</li> <li>● Understanding of Style</li> <li>● Dynamics</li> <li>● Phrasing</li> </ul>	<p>The tone quality is clear, full, rich, and characteristic of the instrument.</p> <p>The performance demonstrates full control of tempo, dynamics, phrasing, and expression consistent with the style of the piece</p>	<p>The tone quality is mostly clear and full with occasional lapses.</p> <p>The performance demonstrates good control of tempo, phrasing and expression consistent with the style of the piece; consistency may be somewhat limited, but rarely distracts from the performance.</p>	<p>The tone quality exhibits some flaws in production (slightly thin/unfocused/scratchy or forced sound).</p> <p>Performance demonstrates basic control of tempo, phrasing and expression; basic knowledge of style is evident; many stylistic inconsistencies are present.</p>	<p>The tone quality has several flaws in basic production (consistently thin/unfocused/scratchy or forced sound).</p> <p>Major errors in control of tempo, phrasing and expression; stylistic inconsistencies prevail throughout.</p>	<p>The tone quality hinders the performance.</p> <p>Lack of control of tempo, phrasing and expression hinders the performance; attempts at stylistically correct performance are unsuccessful or non-existent.</p>
<b>Melodic &amp; Technical Accuracy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Correct notes</li> <li>● Key signatures</li> <li>● Articulations</li> <li>● Intonation</li> </ul>	<p>Intonation is accurate in all ranges and required keys; Student shifts cleanly.</p> <p>Notes and articulations are accurate and precise throughout the performance.</p>	<p>Intonation is mostly accurate; the student adjusts the few problem pitches to an acceptable standard.</p> <p>Notes and articulations are nearly accurate; occasionally a pitch or articulation lack precision.</p>	<p>Intonation is somewhat accurate but consistently includes out-of-tune notes; the student adjusts these pitches with fair success.</p> <p>Most notes and articulations are accurate but errors in precision are present.</p>	<p>A basic sense of intonation is evident, yet major errors occur; the student makes little attempt to adjust pitch.</p> <p>Many notes and articulations are performed incorrectly or inconsistently, major errors are present.</p>	<p>Intonation is consistently inaccurate and hinders the quality of performance; the student makes no attempt to correct pitch.</p> <p>Notes and articulations are consistently performed incorrectly; clarity and precision are essentially nonexistent.</p>
<b>Rhythmic Accuracy &amp; Pulse</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Correct Rhythms</li> <li>● Steady Pulse</li> </ul>	<p>Rhythms are accurate and precise throughout the performance.</p>	<p>Rhythms are nearly accurate; occasionally rhythms lack precise interpretation.</p>	<p>Most rhythm patterns are accurate, but errors in precision are present.</p>	<p>Many rhythms performed incorrectly or inconsistently, major errors are present.</p>	<p>Rhythms are consistently performed incorrectly; clarity and precision are essentially nonexistent.</p>

	<b>EXCELLENT (9-10)</b>	<b>VERY GOOD (7-8)</b>	<b>GOOD (5-6)</b>	<b>FAIR (3-4)</b>	<b>POOR (0-2)</b>
<b>Posture &amp; Position</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seated/standing posture</li> <li>● Instrument position</li> </ul> Strings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bow hold</li> </ul>	<p>Standing or sitting with straight back, the instrument is held correctly.</p> <p>Bow hold: Thumb and fingers are curved, relaxed, and spaced correctly on the bow with a secure hold.</p>	<p>Standing or sitting straight, the instrument mostly held correctly, but slightly sagging or held a little incorrectly.</p> <p>Bow Hold: Bent thumb, flexed fingers, straight fourth finger, too much or not enough lean toward tip, some tension apparent in hand or fingers.</p>	<p>Mostly standing or sitting straight, the instrument sagging or positioned incorrectly.</p> <p>Bow hold: Bent thumb, fingers somewhat flexed, hand leaning too much or not enough toward tip, straight fourth finger, tension evident in hand or fingers.</p>	<p>There is some attempt made by the musician to sit or stand straight, but lacking consistent posture, instrument mostly held incorrectly.</p> <p>Bow hold: There is some attempt by the musician to have fingers and thumb in the correct placement; still awkwardly bent or straight fingers and/or pronated hand.</p>	<p>Slouched, leaning too far forward or back, elbows sticking out or tucked too close to body, instrument held incorrectly.</p> <p>Bow hold: Straight or awkwardly bent fingers and thumb, pronated hand, no correctness.</p>