



Symphony Orchestra (SO)

Full Symphonic Orchestra

Most Advanced CKYO Ensemble

Typical school grade levels 9th-12th CKYO Ensemble

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (SO) is CKYO's most advanced ensemble and is conducted by Marcello Cormio, CKYO Music Director. The Symphony Orchestra plays advanced orchestral music in its original form with an emphasis on preparing students for collegiate or semiprofessional orchestras & collaborates with other organizations & venues for performances throughout Lexington beyond the regular mainstage concerts.

REHEARSALS are MONDAYS throughout the school year (late August thru early May) from 7:00pm-9:30pm and take place at the Singletary Center for the Arts on UK's campus.

TUITION: CKYO audition-based orchestras charge tuition each semester, based on the number of rehearsal hours per week. The tuition helps cover costs like conductors, sectional coaches, judges, music purchase/rental, rehearsal materials, and venue rental. On average, tuition breaks down to about \$17-\$18 per week of rehearsal. Tuition Scholarship available through simple application to CKYO's Board.

- **2026-2027 Tuition: \$300 per semester (charged in September and January, can also pay the year in full in September)**
 - **Monthly Payment Plans Available:** Tuition can be paid in 8 equal monthly installments from September to May.
 - **Discounts:** Families with multiple children or students participating in more than one orchestra will receive a 10% discount per semester for each child or ensemble.
 - **Fundraising Participation:** Students are required to participate in fundraising each semester or can opt to pay a cash opt-out fee.
- **Financial Assistance:** CKYO offers need-based tuition assistance to ensure access to quality music education for all students. Apply for financial aid here: [CKYO Scholarship Application](#). We encourage any student who needs any assistance to apply – awards range from full tuition to a \$50 subsidy per semester.

MATERIALS: Students should bring their instrument, any instrument accessories (mutes, extra strings, rosin, etc.), a pencil, and their CKYO provided folder with music to every rehearsal.

- CKYO does not provide instruments for rehearsal (except percussion instruments/piano) but has some double basses available for rent for the season and will loan specialty/auxiliary instruments (A clarinets, bass clarinet, contrabassoon, etc) to students should CKYO repertoire require it.

PERFORMANCES: Symphony Orchestra performs in three concerts at the Singletary Center for the Arts each season (November, mid-February, mid-May). Concerts are Sunday afternoons/early evenings and a rehearsal will take place on stage on the concert day a few hours before the concert start time.



Symphony Orchestra (SO)

Musical & Technical Requirements

In addition to the **competencies required for Concert Orchestra**, ALL students in Symphony Orchestra are expected to:

- **Be comfortable sight-reading repertoire up to grade level 4.**
- **Display correct posture and setup for your instrument.**

ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES REQUIRED FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

ALL STRINGS

- Have technical facility in all positions.
- Be comfortable with vibrato, playing in the higher positions, and playing in all parts of the bow with varied articulations/bow strokes including, brush, spiccato, and sautille.

Viola:

- Have good sight-reading skills in alto and treble clefs, and experience in advanced key signatures.

Cello:

- Have good sight-reading skills, and experience in advanced key signatures.

Bass:

- Be comfortable with all positions and thumb positions.

ALL WINDS

- Have advanced use of vibrato appropriate for your instrument.
- Be comfortable with multiple tonguing if appropriate for your instrument.
- Brass players should have standard mutes and bring them to all rehearsals as needed for the repertoire.

Clarinet:

- Owning an A-Clarinet is not required, but frequently repertoire will include parts for A. CKYO will provide A-Clarinet for your use, if you do not already have access to one.

Bassoon:

- Be proficient with playing and sight reading in tenor clef.

Horn:

- Have knowledge and confidence with all standard orchestral transpositions.
- Have knowledge of stopped horn technique and transpositions.

Trumpet:

- Have knowledge and confidence with all standard orchestral transpositions.

Trombone:

- Be proficient with tenor clef and alto clef.



Symphony Orchestra (SO) Audition Requirements

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Audition Requirements

To audition for the Symphony Orchestra, students must prepare the following and submit a video following specific instructions (found here):

1. Orchestral Excerpts

Orchestral Excerpts are short sections of music that highlight key passages for each instrument, showcasing technique and musicality. They help the panel compare players of the same instrument in a standardized way. The excerpts in this packet increase in difficulty and represent literature at the level of each of the full symphonic ensembles (i.e. excerpt 1-2 is Repertory Orchestra difficulty; excerpt 3 is Concert Orchestra difficulty; excerpt 4 is Symphony Orchestra difficulty).

2. Scales

Scales demonstrate your technical skills, including tone, intonation, and precision in rhythm and fingering. They show how well you can control your instrument and play a variety of music.

3. Solo

The solo highlights your musicality, technical ability, and independence. It allows you to showcase expression, tone, and control over challenging passages, providing a full picture of your abilities and readiness to perform in the orchestra.

Click on your instrument below or scan the QR code to download your Audition Packet.

[VIOLIN](#)
[VIOLA](#)
[CELLO](#)
[DOUBLE BASS](#)

[FLUTE](#)
[OBOE](#)
[CLARINET](#)
[BASSOON](#)

[FRENCH HORN](#)
[TRUMPET](#)
[TENOR TROMBONE](#)
[BASS TROMBONE](#)
[TUBA](#)

[HARP](#)

No openings for Piano in 2026-2027