

Orchestra Major Audition Requirements

I. Playing

- A. **Three Scales:** Middle School students play 2 octaves with 0-3 sharps or flats and High School students play 3 octaves with 4-7 sharps or flats (or according to ability) as follows: one Major Scale, one Melodic Minor Scale and one Chromatic scale.
- B. **Two Solos:** 2 prepared pieces of your choice in contrasting styles lasting approximately 2 minutes each. Orchestral excerpts, etudes, chamber music and pop music are not appropriate pieces to bring to the audition. Classical music such as unaccompanied suites and partitas, sonatas, concertos and most selections from the Suzuki books are acceptable. An example of appropriate music selection for this audition would be: an allegro movement with a sharp and/or major key signature from a baroque suite and an andante movement with a flat and/or minor key signature from a romantic sonata. Bring copies of your music with you, even if you have your solos memorized. You do not need to bring an accompanist with you to the audition.
- C. **One Sight Reading:** you will be asked to play an excerpt lasting approximately 8 measures, according to your ability - you will be given approximately one minute to review the excerpt before you play it.

II. Portfolio

Submit hardcopy of the following documents:

- A. **Essay:** discuss the importance of music in your life, why you would like to attend Denver School of the Arts and why you feel you would be an asset to the orchestra program and the school.
- B. **Resume:** provide current contact information (address, home phone, your cell, parent cell, your email, parent email), details about your private study and private teacher, how long you have played your instrument and orchestras or chamber music ensembles you have played with. Include any honors or awards you may have received, your current grade point average, extra-curricular and leadership activities, employment and anything else you would like the audition team to know about you.
- C. **Programs:** provide copies of recent concert programs, recitals, chamber music performances, etc.
- D. **Repertoire:** provide a list of all solos, chamber music and orchestra music you have performed.

III. Interview

- A. **Portfolio:** discuss the four parts of your portfolio - highlight important details for the audition committee.
- B. **Practice:** describe your general practice routine at home, include: where you practice, the set up of the practice area, tools used during practice, amount of time practiced daily and per week, warm-up regime, tuning procedure, scales learned, etudes studied and details of how you go about learning a new piece of music.
- C. **Music Theory:** you will also be asked a few music theory questions pertaining to the solos you selected to perform for the playing portion of your audition.
- D. **Final Comments:** you will be given an opportunity to add anything else about your experience, education, ability etc. that you feel is important for the audition committee to know.