

Drake Symphony Orchestra Fall 2025 Audition Instructions

STRINGS

Auditions are required for membership in the Drake Symphony Orchestra. Auditions are open to all students enrolled at Drake University, regardless of major.

- 1) Submit the Drake Symphony Orchestra Audition Questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/KunBrDAqCJbimqfEA> contact Prof. Aguero if you have trouble accessing the form - hector.aguero@drake.edu
- 2) Auditions will be held during the first week of classes in FAC 402.
- 3) The audition sign-up is virtual and a link will become available the week before classes begin.

25/26 Season Highlights

September 25th - Opening concert

music of Sibelius and more (Celebrating 160th year of Sibelius' birth)

October 30th - Hauntcert

Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain, Prokofiev - Montagues and Capulets, various pops selections

February 27 thru March 1 - Carmen

Collaboration with Drake Opera Theatre

April 30 - Final Concert

Drake Concerto Competition Winners and Repertoire TBD

Drake Symphony Orchestra Fall 2025 Audition Excerpts - Violin

1) Sibelius - Karelia Overture, Op. 10
Play from Beginning to low G on the last line

Allegro moderato.

mf

f

cresc.

ff

legato

dim.

Oboe Solo

ppp

pp

poco a poco rallentando

2) Mussorgsky - Night on Bald Mountain
Play from Beginning to Letter S

Handwritten annotations in the score include: **R** (above the first staff), **S** (above the fourth staff), **TURN** (below the fourth staff), and **V.S.** (to the right of the fourth staff). Dynamic markings include *sf*, *p*, *mf*, and *f*. Performance instructions include *tr* (trill), *slur*, *cresc.* (crescendo), and *espr.* (espressivo).

* **OPTIONAL CONCERTMASTER EXCERPT** - Play if you want to be considered for concertmaster

Brahms - Symphony No. 1, mvt. II

Handwritten annotations in the score include: **Solo** (above the first staff), **E** (above the first staff), and **F** (above the third staff). Dynamic markings include *espr.*, *cresc.*, *p*, *mf*, and *f*. Performance instructions include *tr* (trill), *slur*, *cresc.* (crescendo), and *espr.* (espressivo).

Drake Symphony Orchestra Fall 2024 Audition Excerpts - Viola

1) Mussorgsky - Night on Bald Mountain
Play Beginning to A then D to F

VIOLE. edited by Clinton F. Nieweg

Allegro feroce.

pp cresc. p f p f pp cresc. less

p f f f pizz ff

arco div. ff sf sf ff

f A 2

D Allegro feroce.

f tr pp poco cresc. mf

col legno

arco cresc. 9 F ff accel

2) Prokofiev - Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2, Montagues and Capulets
Play from 5 to 6

This image shows a handwritten musical score for the piece "Montagues and Capulets" from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2. The score is written on four staves, with measures 5 and 6 indicated by boxed numbers. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 3/8. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *f* (forte). There are also handwritten annotations, including slurs, accents, and some illegible markings, which appear to be a student's or teacher's corrections or performance instructions. The first staff (measure 5) features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The second staff continues the melody with similar markings. The third staff shows a more complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents. The fourth staff (measure 6) features a series of eighth notes with slurs and accents, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking.

Drake Symphony Orchestra Fall 2025 Audition Excerpts - Cello

1) Mussorgsky - Night on Bald Mountain
Play from P to Q

The musical score is written for Cello and consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with the tempo marking *a tempo*. The first two measures are marked *f* (forte) and *pizz.* (pizzicato). The third measure is marked *f* and *pizz.* with a '3' indicating a triplet. The fourth measure is marked *f* and *arco* (arco). The second system continues with *f* and *pizz.* markings, followed by *f* and *arco* markings. The third system begins with a '2' indicating a second, followed by *ff* (fortissimo) markings. The fourth system begins with a 'Q' indicating a quarter note, followed by *f* markings and a '2' indicating a second.

2) Borodin - In the Steppes of Central Asia
Play entire excerpt

The image displays a musical score for the piece "In the Steppes of Central Asia" by Borodin. The score is written for three staves, all in E major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with the instruction "E arco" and "p cantabile". The music is characterized by flowing, melodic lines with frequent slurs and triplets. The second and third staves continue the melodic development, with the third staff concluding with a key signature change to E minor (two sharps) and a final "p" dynamic marking. The notation includes various musical symbols such as slurs, triplets, and dynamic markings.

Drake Symphony Orchestra Fall 2024 Audition Excerpts - Bass

1) Mussorgsky - Night on Bald Mountain
Play from P to Q

The image displays a musical score for the Bass part of the first excerpt, "Night on Bald Mountain" by Mussorgsky. The score is written for a double bass and consists of four systems of music, labeled P through Q. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 7/8. The tempo marking "a tempo" is present above the first system. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first system (P) begins with a forte (f) dynamic and includes markings for "pizz." (pizzicato) and "arco" (arco). The second system (Q) continues the piece with similar markings. The third system (R) features a forte (f) dynamic and includes markings for "pizz." and "arco". The fourth system (S) concludes the excerpt with a forte (f) dynamic. The score is written for a double bass and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

2) Prokofiev - Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2, Montagues and Capulets
Play from 5 to 6

2.

Pizz

C. bassi

5

sempre pizz.

Handwritten musical score for C. bassi, measures 5 to 6. The score is written on three staves in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 5 begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a *sempre pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, with some notes marked with accents (>) and slurs. Measure 6 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes the word *arco* above the staff, indicating a switch to bowing. The notation continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, some marked with accents (>) and slurs. Measure 7 begins with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and includes the word *Non* above the staff. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, some marked with accents (>) and slurs. The score is annotated with various handwritten notes and symbols, including *Pizz*, *sempre pizz.*, *arco*, *f*, *ff*, and *Non*.