

**Smith College Orchestra**  
**Welcome & Audition Information for New Students**  
**from Jonathan Hirsh, conductor**

**The most important thing you need to know about auditioning for the Smith College Orchestra is that this is a very friendly group.** There are no seat challenges, for example, and everyone cooperates and collaborates. This is not a cutthroat orchestra experience. The emphasis is on learning, having fun, and playing to the best of our collective ability. If you played your instrument in high school, and especially if you have been taking private lessons, you have a chance of being accepted. It's always more competitive for winds, because there are fewer available seats. We have a growing brass section, but there are spots available. If you will be able to play the music successfully and contribute to the ensemble, you are a candidate for the orchestra.

Based on your audition/interview, we determine whether or not you will be able to feel successful with our repertoire. If the answer is yes, and we have a spot for you, then you're in! We work hard together and we have fun together, all with the goal of performing as best we can. Our concerts are quality experiences for the audience and for the orchestra.

I encourage you to take private lessons. I encourage everyone to take private lessons. And we try to make it easy for you. When you audition for orchestra, in addition to playing for me you'll also be playing for the lesson instructors. So you'll meet everyone and play for all of us at the same time. String players will play for me and our fantastic violin and cello professors. Everyone else will play for me and our clarinet professor. We will all advise you about the best plan for you. See [here](#) for more information about the department and about auditions and classes.

***Here's when auditions take place:***

[Thursday, 9/4: 9:30am-1:30pm \(strings\) in room 302](#)

[Friday, 9/5: 9:30am-1:30pm \(strings\) in room 302](#)

[Thursday: 4:30pm-6:30pm \(non-strings\) in room 15](#)

**THE SUMMER CAN BE UNPREDICTABLE. IF YOU DID NOT HAVE MUCH, OR ANY, TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE AUDITION, COME ANYWAY AND LET'S CHAT**

**Here's how it will work! You'll be auditioning for me and for one or more of our instrumental instructors.**

At this in-person audition you will be asked to play a 2- or 3-octave scale of **your** choice and then 2-3 minutes of a solo piece of your choice, something that you are comfortable with and that you feel will best showcase your ability.

**Finally, anytime before your in-person audition, [email me](#) a recording of yourself (just audio recorded on your phone) playing the excerpts listed [here](#) for your part for Beethoven: Triple Concerto using the instructions below.**

To download your part, please go [here](#), scroll down to “Sheet Music” and click the “Parts” tab. Then scroll down to where it says “Orchestra”. Under the Orchestra heading, in the second gray banner click either Flute (if that’s your instrument) or “10 other” and then you will see a link for all the instruments. Download the part and you are ready to practice. **Clarinets, Horns and Trumpets**, keep scrolling until you get to the fourth set of parts and you will see transposed parts. Use these as it will be much easier. Unless you own a C clarinet or C Trumpet.

Some notes about the parts:

**For winds and brass:** you will see only the first part indicated in the excerpt list. You may be assigned to play second based on your audition.

**For violins:** if you want to be considered for first, you need to prepare the First Violin part. If you are not accepted as a first violin, you could still be accepted into the second violin section.

### **Repertoire**

In case you are interested in what kind of music we usually play, look for recordings of our concerts on the Smith College Music Department YouTube Channel

### **Schedule**

If you’d like to put our schedule for the year in your calendar now, click [here](#) and add it to your google calendar or whatever app or device you use to keep yourself organized.

### **More information**

These instructions should be accurate and complete. If for some reason, you have questions, please feel free to email conductor Jonathan Hirsh, at [jhirsh@smith.edu](mailto:jhirsh@smith.edu) or orchestra co-presidents [Jessica Klurfeld](#) and [Caro Faust](#).

Happy Practicing! See you at the end of the summer!