

## Instrumental Music

321 East 3rd Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015  
phone (610) 868-2971 | fax (610) 868-1446

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AUDITIONS

The mission of the instrumental music department is to present the finest degree of musical training available to high school students, emphasizing the development of the whole musician. We encourage strong academic students who are talented and passionate about the arts to apply.

The audition process includes an audition that consists of prepared work(s), sight-reading a short passage appropriate for your instrument, scales/rudiments and an interview. We will be listening for an accurate rendering of the music, good intonation, flexibility, expressiveness, articulation, changing dynamics, overall musicality, and potential. You should dress appropriately for your audition. It is recommended that a private lesson teacher help you prepare for your audition.

### The Performance Audition

#### Brass

- Brass Scales, Major (to be played in tongued quarter notes at a minimum speed of 110 bpm)
  - Trumpet:
    - 1 Octave: F, D, Eb, C
    - 2 Octaves: A, G, Bb
    - Chromatic: From low C slurred to as high as possible, at least 1 octave
  - Horn:
    - 1 Octave: C, D, Eb
    - 2 Octaves: F, G
    - Chromatic: Slurred from C to as high as possible, at least 1 octave
  - Baritone/Euphonium/Trombone/Tuba
    - 1 Octave: Bb, Eb, D, C, G
    - 2 Octaves: F
    - Chromatic: Slurred from Low Bb to as high as possible, at least 1 octave
    -
- Perform excerpts from two pieces of music, contrasting in style. (These may be solo repertoire or etude for your instrument, jazz style is acceptable genre) Ensemble music is not an acceptable selection (**marching band, concert band, orchestra, etc.**)
- You must provide **TWO** additional copies of this music. Performance time should not exceed 5 minutes.
- Sight-read 16 measures appropriate for your instrument.

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### Strings (Violin/Viola/Cello)

- Scales
  - The following major scales, one octave: Bb, Eb, E, F
  - The following major scales, two octaves: G, A, D, C
  - ~Optional~ Violins only. The following major scales, three octaves: G, A
- Repertoire
  - Prepare two contrasting solo pieces written for specific instrument (violin, viola, cello, or bass). For contrast, please select a lyrical, slower tempo piece, and one moderate to fast tempo piece.
  - Sight reading will be provided at the audition.

### Woodwinds

- Know and be able to perform major scales (**2 octaves if possible**; flutes may play C scale 3 octaves if possible) up to and including **4 flats and 4 sharps, tongued, not slurred (C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D, A and E) and a minimum of 2 octave chromatic scale (slurred)**
- Perform excerpts from two pieces of music, contrasting in style. (These may be solo repertoire or etude for your instrument, jazz style is acceptable genre) Ensemble music is not an acceptable selection (**marching band, concert band, orchestra, etc.**)
- You must provide **TWO** additional copies of this music. Performance time should not exceed 5 minutes.
- Sight-read 16 measures appropriate for your instrument.

### Pianists

- Know major scales up to 4 flats and 4 sharps (C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D, and E), and chromatic scale (Scales must be played in two octaves each with both hands simultaneously).
- Bring excerpts from two pieces, contrasting in style (must be Classical, musical theatre or jazz style **ONLY**). You must provide **TWO** additional copies of this music. Playing time should not exceed 6 minutes. **NO Für Elise!!**
- Sight-read 16 measures appropriate for your instrument.

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### Guitar

Students auditioning on guitar should be prepared to:

- Perform Major Scales in first position: **C, G, D, F** and Minor Scales in first position: **a, e, b, d**; **Chromatic Scale**; **Blues Scale** in 2 octaves.
- Demonstrate open position Major chords: **C, G, D, A, E, F, C7, A7, G7, E7, D7, B7** and Minor chords: **a, e, d, b**; Movable bar chord forms: **E, A, em, am**
- Sight-read 16 measures appropriate for your instrument.

Students must perform **two** prepared pieces; one jazz and one classical. We ask that you strive for the appropriate level (3 being the most difficult). You may choose different levels for classical and jazz (i.e. level 1 classical and level 3 jazz). It is recommended that a lesson teacher help you prepare for this audition.

- **LEVEL 1**

*Now's the Time* by Charlie Parker (One chorus of melody and one with accompanying chords)

**-AND-**

*Snow Flight* by Andrew York (*measures 1 – 25 with repeat*)

- **LEVEL 2**

*How High the Moon* by Morgan Lewis (One chorus of melody and one with accompanying chords)

**-AND-**

*Spanish Waltz* by Daniel Fortea

- **LEVEL 3**

*Ornithology* by Charlie Parker (One chorus of melody and one with accompanying chords)

**-AND-**

*Lagrima* by Francisco Tarrega (Entire piece – no repeats)

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### Bass (Electric/Upright)

Students auditioning on bass should be prepared to:

- Perform Major Scales: **C**, up to 4 flats **F, Bb, Eb, Ab**, and up to 4 sharps **G, D, A and E**; **Chromatic Scale** in 2 octaves.
- Sight-read 16 measures appropriate for either electric or upright bass.

Students must perform **two** prepared pieces; one jazz and one classical. We ask that you strive for the appropriate level (3 being the most difficult). You may choose different levels for classical and jazz (i.e. level 1 classical and level 3 jazz). It recommended that a lesson teacher help you prepare for this audition.

- **LEVEL 1**

*Satin Doll* by Duke Ellington (One chorus of melody and one with walking bass line)

**-AND-**

*Etude # 1* from Simandl "30 Etudes for the String Bass"

- **LEVEL 2**

*Blue Monk* by Thelonious Monk (One chorus of melody and one with walking bass line)

**-AND-**

*Etude # 7* from Simandl "30 Etudes for the String Bass"

- **LEVEL 3**

*Ornithology* by Parker/Harris (One chorus of melody and one with walking bass line)

**-AND-**

*Etude # 17* from Simandl "30 Etudes for the String Bass"

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### Percussionists

*(You must bring your own sticks/mallets to the audition)*

Students auditioning for percussion must prepare at least **TWO** of the following:

- **Drum Set** – Play one chorus of time over the form of a jazz standard. Please bring the chart with you along with **TWO** copies. You may be asked to trade fours on a blues. You will play basic styles including swing, rock, funk, bossa nova, samba, reggae, etc.
- **Snare Drum** - One excerpt of a snare drum solo. Please provide **TWO** extra copies of this music. Students may be asked to play basic rudiments including the paradiddle, flams, flam taps, 5-stroke roll etc.
- **Mallet Percussion** – One excerpt of a mallet instrument solo (Marimba, Vibraphone, Xylophone, etc.) Please provide **TWO** copies of this music. Students may be asked to perform major scales **C, G, D, A, E, F, Bb, Eb, Ab** and the **chromatic scale**.
- **Timpani** – One excerpt of a timpani solo. You must provide **TWO** copies of this music. You must be able to tune the drums yourself. You will be asked to play a long roll from *piano* to *forte* and back again.

You will be asked to sight-read on at least one of your auditioned instruments. Examples of sight-reading may include: excerpt of a big band chart, a few measures of a snare etude, a short mallet etude, a few measures of a timpani etude, etc.

### Interview

The final portion of your audition will be a brief interview by the auditioning committee.

### Attire

Please dress appropriately for your audition.

For more information regarding the instrumental music auditions, please email **Mr. Matt Wells**, Artistic Director of Music at [mwells@charterarts.org](mailto:mwells@charterarts.org)