



**2024-2025**

**Piano**  
**Audition**  
**Packet**

## **Orchestras (\*\*Piano may only audition for YAO\*\*)**

### **Young Artists Orchestra (YAO)**

The Young Artists Orchestra (YAO), the most advanced of our ensembles, is composed of approximately 70 to 80 members and performs four to six concerts annually, including one side-by-side concert with the Colorado Symphony. Concerts are performed in venues such as Boettcher Concert Hall, area churches, and Gates Concert Hall at The Newman Center. Students receive occasional coachings from Colorado Symphony Members or university faculty throughout the season and attend a weekend retreat in September. Recent repertoire includes Sibelius: Symphony no. 2, Bernstein: *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, Jennifer Higdon: *Cold Mountain Suite*, and Beethoven: Symphony No. 3.

Placement in YAO is determined by audition. Membership is open to musicians between the ages of 12 and 23. YAO rehearses Saturday mornings from 9:00am-12:30pm at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music (2344 E Iliff Ave, Denver).

## Audition Requirements (\*\**Piano may only audition for YAO*\*\*)

1. A one-minute excerpt of a solo piece or etude showing your highest level of development both technically and musically.

2. **Orchestral excerpt(s)** as defined below.

CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR YOUNG ARTISTS ORCHESTRA prepare the enclosed excerpts from:

- **Shostakovich: Symphony no. 5 mvt. I rehearsal 17 to rehearsal 22**
- **Copland: "Buckaroo Holiday" from *Rodeo* rehearsal 11 to rehearsal 19**

3. **Possible scales or sight-reading** as determined by the audition committee. Possible scales to be selected from all major and melodic minor key signatures.

The excerpts are meant to challenge your musicianship. Written below are a few suggestions to assist your audition preparation.

- **Play the music in the right tempo:** If tempos are not indicated in your excerpts, please work with your teacher and listen to reputable orchestra recordings to determine the correct speed. Frequently, candidates' tempi are unsteady and often *way too fast!* Judges are not listening to hear how fast you can play; rather, they are listening to see if you can play the piece correctly at an appropriate tempo. Rushing and dragging are things to avoid. Practice with a metronome and record yourself playing these excerpts to ensure accuracy.
- **Play with dynamic contrast:** Often judges comment that candidates ignore dynamic markings, especially the softer end of the dynamic spectrum. Remember that music is more than rhythms and pitches: first and foremost music is sound. Sell your performance!
- **Divisi and rests:** All players should learn **top** divisi/notes unless explicitly noted otherwise. Also, unless otherwise marked, long rests (more than two measures) should be played as unmeasured pauses in the audition.

YAO:

Shostakovich: Symphony no. 5 mvt. I reh. 17 to reh. 22

17  $\text{♩} = 92$   
*una corda secco*

18

*poco animando*

The image shows a page of musical notation for piano, consisting of four systems of staves. The first system begins with a bracketed measure number '17' and a tempo marking '♩ = 92'. The instruction 'una corda secco' is written below the first staff. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, various note values, rests, and dynamic markings. The second system contains measure 18. The third system begins with the instruction 'poco animando'. The fourth system continues the musical notation. The score is presented in a clear, black-and-white format.

# Piano e Celesta

19  $\text{♩} = 104$

Musical notation for measures 19 and 20. Measure 19 is in bass clef, and measure 20 is in treble clef. The music features a melodic line in the upper voice and a more rhythmic accompaniment in the lower voice.

20

Musical notation for measures 20 and 21. Measure 20 is in treble clef, and measure 21 is in bass clef. The music continues with a melodic line in the upper voice and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower voice.

21

Musical notation for measures 21 and 22. Measure 21 is in treble clef, and measure 22 is in bass clef. The music features a melodic line in the upper voice and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower voice.

Allegro non troppo,  $\text{♩} = 126$

22

23

46

5

*Tacet al*

2

Musical notation for measures 22 through 46. Measure 22 is in treble clef, and measures 23 through 46 are in bass clef. The music features a melodic line in the upper voice and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower voice. A bracket groups measures 22-23. Measure 23 has a '5' below it. Measure 24 has a 'Tacet al' instruction. Measure 46 has a '2' below it.

YAO:

Copland: "Buckaroo Holiday" from Rodeo reh. 11 to reh. 19

The image shows a musical score for piano and brass. The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts with measure 3, followed by measure 5. A double bar line with a repeat sign (two vertical lines) is placed above the staff, with the word "Allegro" written to its right. The tempo marking "poco a poco accel." is written above the staff between measures 3 and 5. The word "Brass" is written below the staff between measures 5 and 6. The dynamic marking "mf" is written below the staff between measures 6 and 7. The second system starts with measure 11, followed by measure 12. The dynamic marking "sf" is written below the staff between measures 11 and 12. The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. The piano part is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs), and the brass part is written on a single staff (treble clef).

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# Harp & Piano

Musical score system 13. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 13 is circled. The system contains two staves with piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *ff* and *f*. A dotted line above the treble staff indicates an 8-measure repeat.

Musical score system 14. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 14 is circled. The system contains two staves with piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*. A dotted line above the treble staff indicates an 8-measure repeat. Fingerings 1 and 2 are indicated in the bass staff.

Musical score system 15-17. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measures 15 and 16 are circled. Measure 17 is marked *Picc.* and circled. The system contains two staves with piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*. A dotted line above the treble staff indicates an 8-measure repeat. Fingerings 7 and 9 are indicated in the bass staff.

Musical score system 18. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 18 is circled. The system contains two staves with piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*. A dotted line above the treble staff indicates an 8-measure repeat. Fingerings 2 and 3 are indicated in the bass staff.

Musical score system 19. Treble clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 19 is circled. The system contains two staves with piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*. A dotted line above the treble staff indicates an 8-measure repeat. Fingerings 2 and 3 are indicated in the bass staff.