

Birch Creek Summer 2020 | Suggested Symphony Repertoire Levels

These repertoire levels are included to give Symphony session applicants an idea of the level of literature they should be playing to be comfortable meeting the demands of the Birch Creek schedule and performance repertoire.

Applicants are not required to include these materials on their audition recordings.

String, Wind, Brass, Percussion, Harp* and Piano* Applicants

In the intensive and nurturing environment of Birch Creek, students will continue to develop excellent practice habits and rehearsal skills. They are seated next to faculty in orchestra rehearsals and concerts and must be able to perform at a high technical level. For this reason, auditions are required for acceptance into the Symphony program. Students are also placed in chamber ensembles with fellow students and will play an average of six hours per day, six days a week, in orchestral and chamber rehearsals and performances. They should come to Birch Creek musically prepared and with enough supplies (reeds, strings, etc.) for the two weeks. Because Birch Creek limits the number of applicants accepted for each position, each student receives a great deal of individual attention. * Additional chamber music, theory and solo work will be offered, depending on the orchestral repertoire's requirements for these instruments.



Symphony Session String Applicants

Violin I: at the level of a Mozart concerto or the Mendelssohn Concerto in e minor.

Violin II: at the level of the Handel sonatas or the Viotti Concerto No. 23.

Violas: at the level of the Handel Concerto in b minor; students have auditioned with the Hoffmeister Concerto in D Major, Hindemith's Trauermusik, or Stamitz Concerto in D Major.

Cellos: at the level of the Saint-Saëns Concerto in a minor or the Haydn Concerto in C Major.

Basses: at the level of Die Meistersinger (solo arr. Isaac), the Marcella sonatas, or the Capuzzi Concerto.

Symphony Session Wind Applicants

Flute: at the level of Fauré Fantasie or Telemann Sonatas.

Oboe: at the level of the Telemann or Handel sonatas, Mozart Oboe Quartet, or Mozart Oboe Concerto.

Clarinet: at the level of Mozart Concerto, Stamitz Concerti, Weber, and Brahms.

Bassoon: at the level of the Mozart Concerto, Weber Concerto or Andante and Hungarian Rondo, Fasch Sonata in C and Vivaldi Concerto.

Symphony Session Brass Applicants

Horn: at the level of the Mozart Concerto No. 3 (Mvt. I), or the Corelli Sonata in F Major (Mvt. I); students have auditioned with the Strauss Concerto No. 1 (Mvt. I), or the Saint-Saëns Concert Piece (Mvt. I).

Trumpet: at the level of Balay Andante and Allegretto or the Barat Fantasie en mi bémol; students have auditioned with Mvt. I of the Haydn or Hummel Concertos and the Arutunian Concerto. Suggested orchestral excerpts: Promenade from Pictures at an Exhibition (Mussorgsky/Ravel), Lyrical solo from Pines of Rome (Respighi), Leonore Overture #3 (Beethoven), Ballerina Dance from Petrouchka (Stravinsky). Transposition skills are required and students should perform on B flat and C trumpets.

Tenor trombone: students must read alto, tenor, and bass clef, Suggested repertoire level: Guilman Morceau Symphonique, Rimsky-Korsakov Concerto; etudes: Rochut Melodious Etudes, Voxman Selected Studies. Suggested orchestral excerpts: Berlioz Rokotsky March (Hungarian March), Brahms Symphonies, Tchaikovsky Symphony IV, Wagner Ride of the Valkyries, Ravel Bolero.

Bass trombone: suggested repertoire level: McCarty Sonata; Spillman Concerto; Lieb Concertino. Suggested orchestral excerpts: same as tenor trombone excerpts, with the exception of Bolero; Wagner Das Rheingold, Nielsen Flute Concerto.

Tuba: suggested repertoire level: Lebedev Concerto, Vaughan Williams Tuba Concerto, Greggson Concerto, Suite for Tuba-Don Hadad, Sonata in F-B. Marcella, or Dance Mvts from Cello Suites-JS Bach. Suggested orchestral repertoire: same as bass trombone excerpts, plus Wagner Die Meistersinger Overture, and Stravinsky Petrouchka (Dancing Bear); excluding Bolero and Nielsen excerpts.

Symphony Session Percussion Applicants

Snare drum: Warren Benson Three Dances; Timpani: John Beck Sonata for Timpani; Keyboard mallet instruments: Thomas Pitfield Sonata for Xylophone.

Symphony Session Piano Applicants

Repertoire at the level of the Bach Inventions, Classical sonatinas or sonatas, or Chopin waltzes or mazurkas.

Symphony Session Harp Applicants

Suggested repertoire levels: Handel Harmonious Blacksmith, Salzedo Suite of Eight Dances, Debussy First Arabesque; [etudes: Salzedo Conditioning Exercises, Grossi etudes, Pozzoli studies]. Suggested orchestral excerpts: Britten Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, DeFalla Three Cornered Hat, Debussy Afternoon of a Faun, Waltz of the Flowers Cadenza from the Nutcracker Suite.