

SYMS Chamber Music Intensive Session

Audition Requirements

Your audition for the SYMS Chamber Music Intensive Session will be in the form of a video you will record and upload. Be sure to read all sections of this guide, including the portions on the video and audio requirements and how to submit your video.

Musical Requirements:

Please be sure to select the musical materials that best reflect your current capabilities.

Woodwinds and Brass:

- One major scale of the student's choosing AND
- One melodic minor scale of the student's choosing AND
- 3-4 minutes from standard solo repertoire (Please avoid etudes.)

Percussion:

- 2-3 minutes of a mallet solo AND
- 2-3 minutes of a timpani or snare drum solo

Piano:

- One major scale of the student's choosing AND
- One harmonic minor scale of the student's choosing AND
- One fast movement of a Classical Era sonata (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert),
OR... one substantial composition by Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Mendelssohn, Scriabin,
or Rachmaninoff

Strings:

- One major scale of the student's choosing AND
- One melodic minor scale of the student's choosing AND
- 3-4 minutes from standard solo repertoire (Please avoid etudes.)

Voice:

- Two vocal selections.
 - If possible, please select one song in a language other than English.
 - If possible, please perform with live or recorded accompaniment.

Instrumental Jazz:

- Winds/Piano/Guitar/Bass:
 - Perform any bebop melody or tune from the American Songbook, medium or medium-up tempo. (Ex: Confirmation, Joy Spring, Just Friends, Love for Sale, etc.)
Bass players may elect to play a ballad or less technical melody if they prefer.
 - Piano/guitar - Comp one chorus of the changes from this tune.
 - Bass - Walk one chorus of the changes from this tune.
 - Improvise two choruses of blues in Bb or F (with accompanying track is OK).
- Drummers: Please demonstrate these various styles/tempos.
 - Shuffle 132bpm - play 8 measures of time and fill (total of 32 measures).
 - Bossa Nova 144bpm - play 8 measures of time and fill (total of 16 m.)
 - Up-tempo swing 220+bpm - play 8 measures of time and fill (total of 32 m.)
Medium swing 120bpm - trading fours, play 4 measures of time, then 4 measures of solo, for a total of 24 measures.

Video Guidelines:

You may record your video on phone, tablet, or laptop computer. However, please be sure to follow these important guidelines. Recordings of poor visual quality may not be accepted.

- Use a well-lit space. Daylight is the best light. Avoid lights that create harsh shadows.
 - The performer's face should be turned toward both the camera and light source(s).
- Place the recording device on a table or music stand that is raised to the proper height. Avoid having the camera angling upward from below.
 - Ensure the camera is in front of the performer, not to the side or back.
 - Pianists, however, should be sure to clearly show the hands and full keyboard.
- Stand or sit far enough away from the device that the camera can capture a broad image of the performer. Include all important parts of the person and instrument.
- If using a music stand, be sure the stand does not block the camera's view.

NOTE: *Please see the final pages of this guide for sample images of camera positioning.*

Audio Guidelines:

It is acceptable to use the internal microphone of your phone, tablet, or computer. However, if you have access to a quality USB microphone, please use it.

If using another recording as an accompaniment, be sure to test the balances in the final recording. It may be necessary to move the accompaniment playback device closer to or further from the recording microphone.

How to Submit Videos:

- 1) Watch the video before submitting it. Re-record if the audio or video is of poorer quality.
- 2) Please edit out any excessive gaps at the beginning or in the middle of the video.
- 3) It is probably easiest to use a video-sharing platform like YouTube or Vimeo. If sharing a link to a Google document, please be sure the link does *not* require the viewer to log in to Google.
- 4) Visit the main SYMS website for a link to the current application and submission form. You may submit a hyperlink to your video file in that submission form.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY JUNE 1ST OF EACH YEAR

Sample Images (Camera Angles):



Too close!



Too far!



**Too dark!
(Light is *behind* subject)**



Try to include all of the performer and their instrument.

