

Byng Arts Strings Audition

Information for students preparing for String Auditions



About the Lord Byng Strings Program:

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for the Lord Byng Secondary School Strings Program! String auditions include the violin, viola, cello or double-bass. Upon acceptance in Byng Arts as a string player, musicians will be placed in up to three classes of seven (7) String and Symphony orchestra ensembles at Lord Byng. The benefits of being part of the strings program include working as a team, learning organizational skills, coping under pressure, discipline, general knowledge enhancement, mental health, and being a part of the Byng Arts family. Audition requirements are listed below.

Auditions (8 – 10 minutes total):

Auditions give students the opportunity to showcase their best, and are held in a calm, relaxing environment. Auditions take place each year in February at Lord Byng Secondary School, and include the following requirements:

Solo (2 – 3 minutes):

Please prepare *two contrasting solo pieces* or *contrasting etudes* of your choice. One piece/etude must be fast, and one slow. Play something you have thoroughly prepared that best showcases your musical ability. Examples include two contrasting movements of a concerto or two etudes of contrasting tempi.

Scales (1 – 2 minutes):

Please prepare two scales of your choice (ascending and descending), to best display your current level of playing ability. These scales must include TWO DIFFERENT key signatures, **one major scale** AND **one minor scale**. Please play the scales at a speed that allows you to play all notes cleanly and in tune.

Introductory level (1 or 2 octaves) examples include: C, D, G major; C, D, A melodic minor.

Intermediate level (2 or 3 octaves) examples include: G, D, F B-flat major; G, D, E melodic minor.

Advanced level (3 octaves) examples include: E-flat, A-flat and F-sharp major; E-flat, A-flat, B-flat melodic minor.

Sight-reading (1 – 2 minutes):

Students will be given a single-line sight-reading passage. You will be given ONE minute to go over the key signature, time signature, pitches and rhythm on your own. You are welcome to pluck quietly, or clap the rhythm/pitches to practice. You will then be prompted to play the sight-reading passage.

Accompaniment:

Accompaniment is not required. Please showcase your best performing ability unaccompanied.

Interview:

During the audition, students will be put at ease in a relaxing environment. There will be some brief questions to get to know the student's general interests and overall music goals. I look forward to meeting you! Should you have any questions regarding the program and/or auditions, please contact Jon Hartley-Folz: byngarts@vsb.bc.ca

Musically,

Ms. Ruth Anderson

M.Ed., B.Mus Ed.

Director of Orchestras, Lord Byng Secondary School