

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 various string and symphony ensembles at Lord Byng. Students should be studying with a private lesson teacher and be approximately at **level 4 and above**. 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.

Auditions (8 – 10 minutes total):

Auditions give students the opportunity to showcase their best, and are held in a calm, relaxing environment. Students should be at Suzuki/RCM level 4 and above. **Pianists** must be in RCM 9 and above. They also must be able to play a secondary instrument, such as the violin, viola, cello or string bass. Auditions take place each year Lord Byng Secondary and include the following requirements:

Solos (two pieces, 2 – 3 minutes in length):

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. Students should study with a private lesson teacher to prepare the solos.

2 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**. Example: *E major, and Bb melodic minor*. Please play the scales at a speed that allows you to play all notes cleanly and in tune.

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: Eb, Ab and F# major; Eb, Ab, Bb 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:

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