

# 2024-2025 WSHSB Placement Auditions

## SYMPHONIC BAND

**We do not recommend students skip over a band level.** However, if you choose to try to do so, we will not prohibit it.

If you wish to join Symphonic Band for the first time as a new member you need to contact the director for particulars. Any adult helper wanting to move into Symphonic Band, for the first time, needs to submit an audition.

If you are currently in Concert Junior Band you must prepare an audition for all three bands – Concert Junior Band, Concert Senior Band and Symphonic Band. Each audition must be on a separate video.

If you are currently in Concert Senior Band and want to audition for Symphonic Band, you must prepare an audition for both Concert Senior Band **AND** Symphonic Band. Each audition must be on a separate video.

If you are currently in Symphonic Band, you need only audition for Symphonic Band. Adult helpers returning to Symphonic Band need not re-audition.

**NEW MEMBERS' NOTE:** All new members are required to accompany your parent(s) to the **Overview and Orientation** meeting sometime in September, stay tuned. Once set, our online **CALENDAR** will give the exact date, time and location for this meeting as well as for the first band practice.

### **AUDITIONING FOR A PARTICULAR BAND DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE IN THAT BAND.**

You will be placed in a band level based on your proficiency and the needs within each section and band. Also, one's ability to commit to/attend band will be taken into greater consideration in roster placement. **Membership in the WSHSB is by audition only, Cadets (beginners) excluded. Those who do not submit an audition video will not receive music and will not be considered a member of the band.**

### **What We're Looking For**

Multiple things determine a student's chances of being invited into Symphonic Band

- 1) Proficiency of player - in particular accuracy in performing Senior rhythms and in playing Part 2, No. 1.
- 2) Musical needs/balance of the band
- 3) For current members, the following six points are considered when determining chair assignments:
  - Regular attendance with minimal to no absences
  - Practice times
  - Spirit of service to band
  - Attitude/demeanor
  - Performance at rehearsals and sectionals
  - Overall leadership abilities

We realize it is very difficult to play everything perfectly. Part of being a good performer or "showman" is to keep going, despite mistakes. A solid performance, incorporating the following aspects is more important than playing all the correct notes with incorrect rhythms, tempos, articulation, etc.

**Points are deducted for every error.** Musical aspects that will be considered when evaluating a performance are

- Note accuracy
- Correct rhythms and tempos - **Points will be deducted for not using and setting a metronome.**  
**Note** - Avoid the tendency to slow down or stop when a difficult passage is encountered. Stay with the beat. Do not let the metronome simply be "white noise" in the background while you play at a different or uneven tempo. Weakness in playing at the correct rhythm and/or tempo is often what prevents one from getting a higher placement.
- **GENERAL COMMENT** – Try to listen to the recording. Know that in the passages that are played fast, the tempo you choose to play at will be taken into consideration, as will your accuracy.
- Continue to play at tempo through mistakes
- Articulation, which includes things like tonguing, accents, staccatos, correct phrasing and slurs
- Dynamics (applies to both winds and percussion)
- Tone
- Intonation (playing in tune)

# SYMPHONIC BAND AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

(Instructions for BOTH percussion and wind)

For recording

- **DO** Stand on the floor or sit on a solid chair and use a music stand.
- **DO NOT** set the music on a table, in your case, or have another person hold it while you perform. Do not sit on a sofa, soft chair or bed.
- **Recommended Camera Angle -**  
Record audition from the side and **NOT** from the front. Playing directly into the microphone can distort the sound. The director assesses embouchure and fingering/hand technique during auditions, and side-view recordings are the best format from which to observe these. Tubas, be sure to film on the side where the student's face can be seen.
- Every audition must be **COMPLETELY NEW** for 2024-2025 including **ALL REQUIRED ELEMENTS** as defined within each audition. **Do not skip any elements. Points will be deducted for missing elements.**
- At the beginning of the recording clearly state your first and last name and announce for which band and instrument you are auditioning.
- **First Chair Expectations** - If a student is not prepared or willing to accept the following degrees of responsibility, he should **say so at the BEGINNING of his video**. Earning first chair/principal confers upon a player an important title. But there are responsibilities that come with the position. The director and band rely on each principal to take on leadership for his section. These expectations increase commensurately with each band level. As lead he is expected to –
  - Attend band regularly with **minimal to no absences**
  - Be the most skilled performer in the section and an example of "how to do it" to the rest of the section
  - Play solos
  - Be called upon to "model" a difficult passage for the rest of the section
  - Be responsible for leading sectionals as needed
- Announce each selection before playing e.g.; Bb chromatic scale, passage name, etc.
- **Everything must be played with a metronome at the designated tempo where specified. Points will be deducted for not using and setting a metronome.**
- VERY IMPORTANT – You may choose to record parts of your audition on different days or at different times. However, there is to be no break or editing **within** any passage/exercise/scale. If you make a mistake or stop within a passage, etc., leave the video running and pick-up where you left off. Points will be deducted for breaks in the recording, other than at measured rests. One or two measures of rest should be counted out on the video. Where there are three or more measures of rest, leave the video running, pause playing and announce, "I am continuing at measure \_\_\_\_." Resume playing at that measure. **While making your audition video if you record any passage/exercise/scale more than once you must edit that video to a final video with only one take of each audition requirement. Include ALL elements in the same email.**
- **ATTENTION:** Set the YouTube audition link to **UNLISTED**. **DO NOT** set it to private or public. Send to director's **REGULAR** email address. **DO NOT** send through the WSHSB website contact form.
- **ONLY auditions on YouTube will be accepted. ALL AUDITION VIDEOS MUST BE EMAILED AND RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR BY 5 PM ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024 or they will be considered late.** In order to be considered for a ranked chair position your audition must be received on time, by the deadline. If you fail to do so, there will be penalties at the director's discretion.  
**NOTICE: No auditions will be accepted on external storage devices like DVDs, flash drives, SD cards, etc.**
- The director is aware YouTube uploading can take as much as a few hours or more, depending on internet speed, etc. Additionally, there may be power outages, computer failures, equipment issues or other unforeseen problems. To avoid missing the deadline, do not wait until the last moment to upload your YouTube recording.

*If you have any difficulty locating the books mentioned below you might order online from JW Pepper. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. For additional resources see the "Music and Instrument Stores" document on **Forms/Documents**. For Unisonal Scales - most instruments are available for \$11.99 from this link - <https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/series/unisonal-scales/1302911>*

## REQUIREMENTS FOR WINDS (percussion requirements follow winds')

**NOTE** – If two students are identical in all musical aspects, the one playing at a faster tempo will have an edge. However, do not play at a faster tempo and sacrifice your accuracy or another musical aspect.

**1) Play the complete chromatic scale for your instrument,**  
(Chromatic scale fingering chart is at the back of the Essential Element 2000 books)  
**Tongue up and slur down. Tempo = 120, two sixteenth notes to each beat.**

**2) Scales** - Part 2, No. 1 exercise from the book

Unisonal Scales, Chords & Rhythmic Studies for Bands (instrument specific)  
Compiled and edited by William C White, published by Carl Fischer

**ATTENTION – UNISONAL SCALES ERROR IN MEASURE 9:**

There is a misprint in measure 9. Everyone should have a concert *Ab* as their second note.

**NOTE FOR TUBAS AND OBOES:**

Tubas should use the link for Tuba Unisonal Scales found on our Music Resource page. Oboes should use the OBOE book and not the one for Flutes/Oboes.

- **Metronome set to minimum of 100, two sixteenth notes to each beat.** Playing at a manageable speed with accuracy is more important than trying to play at a breakneck pace.
- Play from beginning to end as a complete piece. Do not record measure by measure and do not stop after each line. Points will be deducted for editing within the exercise.
- The correct place to breathe is after the eighth note.
- If there are parts that exceed your range, you should perform those parts an octave lower.

**3) This requirement is for FLUTES and BRASS ONLY**

**Demonstrate ability to:**

- **Double tongue** - Choose a note and repeat it, playing sixteen - 16th notes per measure @ quarter note = 112 minimum, for four (4) measures
- **Triple tongue** - choose a note and play repeated triplets, one triplet per beat, four sets per measure, @ quarter note = 132 minimum, for 4 measures.

**Audition sheet music for all Concert Senior and Symphonic winds** is to be picked up at the director's home in Winfield on **TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024, 9AM –7PM.**

**Plan ahead if you will be gone for the holiday. There is NO EARLY RELEASE and UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will audition sheet music be mailed.**

**Have a friend pick-up your audition if you are unable to get it on July 2.**

**IMPORTANT:** If you are not able to come on July 2 it is your responsibility to make arrangements with another band member, (not the Borows) to pick-up your music on July 2. All audition music pick-ups are to be completed on July 2.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PERCUSSION

**IMPORTANT REMINDER** - *When making percussion roster assignments for current members, one's ability to play **proper dynamics** in all ranges, will be considered.*

**NOTE** – If two students are identical in all musical aspects, the one playing at a faster tempo will have an edge. However, do not play at a faster tempo and sacrifice your accuracy or another musical aspect.

**Bells** – Same requirements as **WINDS #1 and 2** above, chromatic scale and Part 2, No.1 exercise from Unisonal Scales, Chords & Rhythmic Studies for Bands (instrument specific), compiled and edited by William C White, published by Carl Fischer. (See *the Unisonal error listed under winds.*)

**NOTE:** Music for bells is TO BE PLAYED ON BELLS.

Music for all other percussion instruments, snare, bass, etc. is TO BE PLAYED ON PADS.

**Audition sheet music for all Concert Senior and Symphonic percussion** is to be picked up at the director's home in Winfield on **TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024, 9AM – 7PM.**

**Plan ahead if you will be gone for the holiday. There is NO EARLY RELEASE and UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will audition sheet music be mailed.**

**Have a friend pick-up your audition if you are unable to get it on July 2.**

**IMPORTANT:** If you are not able to come on July 2 it is your responsibility to make arrangements with another band member, (not the Borows) to pick-up your music on July 2. All audition music pick-ups are to be completed on July 2.