



**BOSTON YOUTH
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRAS**
Federico Cortese, Music Director

VIOLIN: PRELIMINARY VIDEO AUDITION 2023

REPERTOIRE AND REQUIREMENTS

Violin students *new* to BYSO (not currently participating in a BYSO ensemble in the 22-23 season) will be asked to record **one scale** and **one excerpt from their solo repertoire** that best reflect their current skill.

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

The following are guidelines to be used when recording the preliminary audition video:

- Recordings must be submitted online through Acceptd. Emailed files and YouTube links will not be accepted.
- For technical support with your Acceptd submission, please contact [Acceptd Support here](#).
- The recording should be in a video format such as MP4, MOV, MPG, MPED, etc.
- Video submissions must be in one continuous take that includes all components. Video submissions must not be edited.
- The total time of your preliminary audition video should be no more than **10 minutes**. Additional footage may not be reviewed.
- The student should state their name at the beginning of the video. They should also clearly state information such as the scale they are playing and the name of their prepared piece or excerpt.
- Stay within the frame. It is okay to move your head, hands and body – be natural and not stiff. Your face, hands, instrument and bow stroke (if applicable) should be visible in the frame while you are playing.
- **Preliminary audition videos must be submitted by Friday, March 31, 2023 at 11:59pm.**
- Media processing can take a considerable amount of time. We recommend that if you have larger media files (close to or more than 1GB) that you upload those files days in advance of the deadline to avoid upload delays.
- After you have waited for your video to finish uploading, it will start processing. Once the processing has begun, you may navigate away from the screen and your submission is complete.

Additional Considerations for the Preliminary Audition Video

- There is no specific dress code requirement though dressing nicely may help exude more confidence and wearing pajamas may be frowned upon.
- Stand close enough to the camera that we can see you but not so close that the sound quality distorts or part of your instrument is out of frame. We recommend making a test recording to make sure you are happy with the way it looks and sounds. While you will not be evaluated on the quality of the recording device, we want to be able to see and hear you in your best form. If you have multiple recording settings on your device, experiment with increasing the quality.
- Don't leave your recording for the last minute. Practice the music you'll be submitting well before the deadlines and don't leave the final recording for the last day. A number of things can go wrong with the recording so plan ahead, figure out what you're going to record with, get your questions answered, and fix any problems in enough time to meet the deadlines. It may also be helpful to record a few practice videos in advance. If possible, ask your private lesson teacher and/or school band or orchestra director for help preparing for or even reviewing practice videos or your final video.
- Review your final video in its entirety before uploading it. Incomplete videos may not be viewed by adjudicators.
- Breathe. Everyone wants you to succeed!



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PRELIMINARY AUDITION VIDEO FAQ

Should I play with piano accompaniment?

No. Videos must be recorded without accompaniment.

How long should my video be?

The length of the audition videos may vary based on age and level. Videos should not exceed 10 minutes.

What counts as “one excerpt” from solo repertoire? How long should my excerpt be?

If you have an entire piece or movement prepared by the time you make your video, you should feel free to record all of it. If you are currently working on a long piece or movement and you have not yet mastered all of it, you should record the portion that reflects your best playing.

Can I record the same repertoire I would play for a live audition?

Yes, the repertoire for the video can be the same as one of the pieces you intend to play in a live audition.

Should the video be one long clip or multiple clips?

Video submissions must be in one continuous take that includes the scale and the solo excerpt. Video submissions should not be edited.

What type of device should I use to record my video?

Videos will not be evaluated on the quality of the recording device, i.e. a reasonably good and clear computer or smartphone recording should be sufficient. We recommend reviewing these [recording tips](#) to achieve the best sound quality on your device, and using an external microphone if possible.

Should the content on my video be memorized?

Memorization is not required.

What is the deadline for submitting the preliminary audition video?

Audition videos must be submitted by **Friday, March 31, 2023 at 11:59pm.**

When will I receive my preliminary audition results?

Audition results will be released in late-April via the Accepted portal only.

Can I be admitted based on my video?

It is our goal to hear as many applicants as possible in a live audition. If the number of applicants exceeds our capacity to schedule live auditions, however, we reserve the right to make decisions based on the preliminary video alone, when an accurate decision can be made regarding placement or non-placement in BYSO.

How to Frame Your Audition Video



GOOD:

- The player's instrument and hands are in the image
- The fingerboard and contact point (where the bow touches the string) are clearly visible
- The player is clearly lit
- There are no distracting elements



BAD:

- The player is turned so that the fingerboard and contact point are not visible
- The music stand is blocking part of the view
- The light sources in the background make it hard to see the player clearly