

Eastman School of Music

Large Ensemble String Auditions, Fall 2026

ESSO and PHIL string players are required to play a live audition at the start of the Fall semester. These auditions will be used to identify players who may be considered for principal positions, and will be a factor in string rotation assignments.

Auditions will be scheduled from August 30 through September 6. Audition time sign-ups will be made available in August.

PDFs of the specific excerpts can be found under the “Seating Auditions” section on our website:

<https://www.esm.rochester.edu/ensembles/guide>

It is recommended that you study the complete parts in addition to the specific excerpts (parts for all pieces can be found on IMSLP). Professor Varon additionally suggests musicians listen to at least 3 recordings of the complete work the excerpts are extracted from (many good quality recordings can be found on YouTube, or you can utilize Sibley’s extensive audio library).

Please contact the Ensemble Library with any questions.

Meredith Gangler, Ensemble Manager: mgangler@esm.rochester.edu

Ensembles Office email: ensembles@esm.rochester.edu

2026 Audition Repertoire:

Be prepared to play one movement (first or finale movement) from a standard concerto your choice, along with the following orchestral excerpts:

Violin

ESSO:

Brahms, Symphony No. 4: Mvmt. 4, 8 before [B] to [D]
Mendelssohn, Midsummer Night's Dream: Scherzo, beginning to 7 after [D]
Respighi, Pines of Rome: 9 after [15] to 4 after [17]
Shostakovich, Symphony No. 1: Mvmt. 1, mm. 65-82
Shostakovich, Symphony No. 1: Mvmt. 4, mm. 67-101
Tchaikovsky, Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy: [S] to 6 before [U]

Concertmaster callbacks:

Shostakovich, Symphony No. 1: Mvmt. 3, mm. 81-94 (solo)
Shostakovich, Symphony No. 1: Mvmt. 4, mm. 109-131 (solo)
Concerto selection

PHIL:

Bartok, Concerto for Orchestra: Mvmt. 3, mm. 86-100
Bartok, Concerto for Orchestra: Mvmt. 5, mm. 277-317 (top line)
Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Mvmt. 1, mm. 17-24
Brahms, Symphony No. 4: Mvmt. 4, 8 before [B] to [D]
Hindemith, Symphonic Metamorphosis: Mvmt. 2, [P] to 4 after [Q]
*fingerings can be found online at NY Phil archive as well as bowings
Mussorgsky/Ravel, Pictures at an Exhibition: [63] – [66]
Strauss, Der Rosenkavalier Suite: beginning to [8]

Concertmaster callbacks:

Any of the above excerpts

plus

Strauss, Der Rosenkavalier Suite: [35] – [38]
Concerto selection

Viola

ESSO:

Brahms, Haydn Variations: Variation 5 (complete)

Brahms, Symphony No. 4: Mvmt. 4, [B] to [D]

Mozart, Symphony No. 35: Mvmt. 4, mm. 134-181

Tchaikovsky, Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy: [S] to 7 before [U]

PHIL:

Bartok, Concerto for Orchestra: Mvmt. 4, pickup to m.43 to m.60

Bartok, Concerto for Orchestra: Mvmt. 5, mm. 384-444

Mozart, Symphony No. 35: Mvmt. 4, mm. 134-181

Strauss, Der Rosenkavalier Suite: beginning to [8]

Cello

ESSO:

Brahms, Symphony No. 3: Mvmt. 3, mm. 1-16

Dvorak, Symphony No. 9: Mvmt. 1, beginning to Allegro molto

Mendelssohn, Midsummer Night's Dream: Scherzo, [C] to [D]

Mendelssohn, Midsummer Night's Dream: Scherzo, [N] to [O]

Rossini, William Tell Overture: opening solo to Allegro

PHIL:

Bartok, Concerto for Orchestra: Mvmt. 5, mm. 292-317

Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Mvmt. 3, [41] to 4 after [42]

Brahms, Symphony No. 2: Mvmt. 2, beginning to [A]

Strauss, Der Rosenkavalier Suite: beginning to [8]

Bass

ESSO:

Beethoven, Symphony No. 5: Mvmt. 3, mm. 141-177

Mahler, Symphony No. 1: Mvmt. 3, opening solo

Mozart, Symphony No. 35: Mvmt. 4, mm. 134-181

PHIL:

Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Mvmt. 3, [41] to 4 after [42]

Brahms, Symphony No. 2: Mvmt. 1, [E] to 9 after [E]

Brahms, Symphony No. 2: Mvmt. 4, m. 244-279

Mozart, Symphony No. 35: Mvmt. 4, mm. 134-181