

NVSO Principal Audition Instructions

Thank you for preparing to audition for a principal position with NVSO!! The principal position comes with additional technical requirements, as well as additional administrative and personnel duties.

Auditions for principal positions will be held before the Musical Director, Concertmaster, and at least one other sitting principal and/or section leader.

All players should prepare:

1. **Solo Pieces:** Choose two solo pieces, or excerpts from a piece of your choice that is representative of your overall musical and technical ability. Solos/excerpts should be approximately 2 minutes in length. Choose a piece that has both technically challenging and lyric sections. Major concertos are preferred.

2. **Scales:** Prepare a major and melodic minor scale throughout the range of your instrument (for stringed instruments, please be prepared to play 3 octaves). The scale will then be used to demonstrate different bowings and tonguings.

- Strings: Be prepared to accomplish the scales using slur 8, and rapid spiccato (4 times each note).
- Winds/Brass: Be prepared to accomplish the scales using slur, staccato, and double or triple tongue on each note.

3. **Sight Reading:** You will sight-read a portion of a piece that we will perform at NVSO this season. We recommend practicing sight-reading pieces you are unfamiliar with to help prepare for this part of the audition.

4. **Excerpts:** Download the excerpts specific to your instrument from the “Join Us/Adult Orchestra” page of the NVSO public website at www.northvalleysymphony.org/adult-orchestra. Please prepare to play all the excerpts. Auditions for Assistant Concertmaster should use the Concertmaster Excerpts.

5. **Interview:** Be prepared to answer questions about, a) seating in you section and assigning parts, b) dealing with personality conflicts, c) your personal administrative abilities, and for strings, d) bowing experience and coordination.

Final Note...

- Make sure you contact me for an audition appointment time and location.

Best of Luck!!

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