

CWU Large Ensemble Fall 2026 Audition Excerpts

Auditions will take place during the first week of classes. Prepare and practice these excerpts so that you are ready. Here are some tips:

- Listen to and watch recordings. Do your research and get a feel for style, approach, tempo
- Mark part with tempos, fingerings, bowings
- Organize part so that all pages are ready
- Five things that we will look for:
 - Rhythm
 - Intonation
 - Articulation
 - Sound
 - Preparation
- Rhythmically count measures of rest if two or less. Skip to next section without counting if there are three or more measures of rest
- For audition purposes, always take the top line if marked divisi.
- All excerpts will be performed behind a screen and you will be led in by a proctor. Do not make any noises that could be identifiable (coughs, comments).

Finally, some things to remember:

- Auditions are a measure of your progress and suitability for a specific ensemble (chamber or/and symphony).
- Except for principal seats, string seating is done by rotation. Seats at the front of the section are not reserved for stronger players.
- There is a place for everyone. No one will be left out.
- You are a member of an orchestral team – attitude, character, preparation, ability to work with others is as important as musical skill and preparation.

VIOLA

EVERYONE PREPARE

Brahms | [Symphony No. 4](#)

- Movement III, Allegro giocoso, beginning – letter A

Shostakovich | [Symphony No. 5](#)

- Movement I, Reh #15-17

Sibelius | [Symphony No 2](#)

- Movement I, mm. 196-210

PRINCIPAL

If interested in a principal position, also prepare:

Strauss | [Ein Heldenleben](#)

- Rehearsal #77-80

Key responsibilities:

- Serve as role model for section and orchestra
- Demonstrate professional conduct
- Lead sectionals