

Dear Musician,

July, 2018

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in the Illinois Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra. We're excited that you'll be playing with us for the upcoming 2018-2019 season! Please use this guide in your audition preparations. **Auditions will be held on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Peru YMCA.**

**Excerpts:** Audition excerpts can be found on our website: [ivyouthsymphony.org](http://ivyouthsymphony.org). From the homepage, select the tab labeled "Auditions," select the file with your instruments name, and print. You may request a physical copy by emailing [ivysorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:ivysorchestra@gmail.com) or by calling our orchestra manager, Jennifer Antkowiak Etscheid at 815-252-1822. We also ask that you prepare a solo piece as part of your audition. **Violinists, please prepare both Violin I and Violin II excerpts.**

**Preparation:** If you have a private instructor, please look over the audition excerpts and discuss a solo piece with them. During your preparation process, pay close attention to details such as tempo, style, articulation, dynamics, tone-quality, and bowings (if applicable). The marked tempos are end-goals, not minimums. Performing the excerpts well, even if under tempo, is more representative of you as a player than performing unpolished materials at the marked tempo.

**Schedule an Audition Time:** Audition times are available on Saturday and Sunday, August 25-26, 2018. Please call our orchestra manager, Jennifer Antkowiak Etscheid at 815-252-1822 or email us at [ivysorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:ivysorchestra@gmail.com) to request an audition time. Each audition will take 8-10 minutes. If a suggested time does not work, please contact us. We will work with you to find an audition time!

**Audition Day:** On your audition day, you should arrive at the YMCA in Peru at least 15 minutes before your scheduled audition. This time will be used to fill out the registration form, pay tuition, and warm-up. We will provide stands in both the warm-up area and audition room. Please dress appropriately for your audition as your presentation should represent all of your hard work as a musician.

**Bring:** Your instrument, excerpts, prepared solo piece (no longer than 8 minutes), **and a judges' copy of your prepared solo piece.** Other suggested items include a water bottle, metronome, and tuner.

Audition results will be posted on our website, listed above, and our Facebook page as soon as they are available, usually Sunday evening. There is a place for everyone in our ensemble, so please consider auditioning!

**Jennifer Antkowiak Etscheid**  
**Orchestra Manager**  
**[ivysorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:ivysorchestra@gmail.com)**  
**815-252-1822**

The official Illinois Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra calendar will be posted to the website and Facebook page soon. Rehearsals, concerts, and venues will all be listed as they are scheduled. If you have any questions concerning auditions, the upcoming seasons, or other IVYSO concerns, please feel free to contact the orchestra manager at any time. Happy playing!