University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Auditions [8 7 2025]

The University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is composed of musicians (music majors/minors and non- majors, Pitt students & staff from across the campus with a few from the larger Pittsburgh community) who have a strong devotion to music.

Our level of performance improves substantially every year and all skilled are. The orchestra is offered as a 1 credit course called University Orchestra - Music 0620. A successful audition is required in every case – either for the permission code to register for the course or to join the orchestra without registering for credit.

Our scheduled time for rehearsals (and concerts) in Bellefield Hall Auditorium is on Wednesdays from 7:30 pm until around 9:50 pm. Additional sectionals or individual coaching sessions are held as needed either in person or virtually through Zoom. We play an unusually wide range of music from the past 700 years up to the very latest music and support the activities of other areas in the Pitt Music Department, especially new music composition/performance.

Auditions are typically done virtually by means of an unedited video recording which should be sent to Roger Zahab (he, him) **rzahab@pitt.edu by the week before classes begin for the semester you wish to play in:**

A complete audition includes two different kinds of music – solo works and orchestral excerpts.
Please prepare two contrasting sections from the solo repertoire for your instrument composed AFTER 1850 up to the present. They don't have to be complete pieces but should use most of the available range of the instrument, and demonstrate your intonation, rhythmic skills, and ability to perform contrasting styles of music in phrasing and tone production.

Average "student repertoire" won't reveal the advanced technique you need for our usual orchestral repertoire, so please no Baroque or Classical music.

The second part consists of a carefully curated set of orchestral excerpts.

Please contact Roger Zahab at rzahab@pitt.edu **for the orchestral excerpts for your instrument - which are selected from major works from Beethoven through Copland, Debussy, Prokofiev, and Stravinsky.**

Any more questions? contact Roger Zahab (he, him) at rzahab@pitt.edu

Individual coaching for players to support their success in performing difficult repertoire will be offered throughout the year. Registered students are encouraged to form groups with friends for chamber music practice in sight-reading, coaching and, if the group so desires, eventually, a performance.

In addition to the orchestra, Heinz Chapel Choir, Pitt Glee Club and Treble choirs, all music department activities are open to Pitt students whether they are music majors or not. Please check out our department here: https://www.music.pitt.edu/performance-and-lecture-series/performance-and-lecture-series