

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Auditions for Large Ensembles and Chamber Music
September 2026

Auditions for Large Ensembles (Wind Ensemble and Orchestra) are required of each student, every September of their residency in the School of Music. These auditions play a significant role in the determination of seating assignments and placement in and within large ensembles as well as chamber music. Therefore, every student is urged to prepare these auditions carefully and thoroughly. The faculty will weigh the performance of the excerpts as heavily as that of the solo material. Each audition will include roughly 7 minutes of playing time. Given the time limitation, most students will not play the entirety of their assigned repertoire for the panel, but it should all be prepared. **Read and follow all instructions thoroughly and carefully.**

Required excerpts (once available) may be obtained by downloading them from the CFA Website:

<https://www.bu.edu/cfa/students/music/production-performance/ensembles-calendar-assignments-auditions/>

String Instruments

1. Choose one:

A movement from a solo Bach Suite, Sonata, or Partita

OR

An exposition from a standard repertoire concerto opening movement. (For timing reasons, please avoid longer repertoire options.)

2. Orchestral excerpts (see below)

**Students interested in a principal position should also prepare the excerpt marked with an asterisk*

Violin

Mendelssohn, Symphony No. 4

- Mvt 1: mm. 1-110
- Mvt. 1: Pickup to mm. 369-405

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

- Mvt 1: Reh 9 - 12
- Mvt 1: Reh 32- 36

Rachmaninoff Symphonic Dances

- Mvt 1: Reh 6 until Reh 8

*Elfrida Andrée - Svanen - m. 33 - 59

*Strauss Don Juan: 12 before R - 4th m of U

Viola

Rossini La Gazza Ladra Overture

- m 63-151

Berlioz Roman Carnival Overture

- 9 before reh 2 - 1 after reh 4

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

- Mvt 1: Reh 15 - 17
- Mvt 1: Reh 32- 3 measures after 38

*Strauss Don Juan: 14 before [W] to 17 after [X]

Cello

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 "Italian"

- Mvt. 1 ms 25-86
- Mvt. 1 ms 260-287

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

- Mvt 1: Reh 15 - 17
- Mvt 1: Reh 32- 39
- Mvt. III: Reh 89-92

Beethoven Symphony No. 6

- Mvt. V ms 25-56
- Mvt. V ms 133-163

*Strauss Don Juan:

- ms. 1 - 9
- ms. 23 - 49

Double Bass

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 "Italian"

- Mvt. 1 ms. 41-90
- Mvt. IV ms. 34-52
- Mvt. IV ms. 166-179

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5: Mvt. 1

- Mvt 1: Reh 22-26, 4th measure
- Mvt 1: Reh 32 - 3 measures after 38

*Milhaud La Creation du Monde

- bass solo 1 measure before 11 - 3 after 15

Students auditioning for BUWE GA position only

Ives, Charles/Schuman/Rhoads, Variations on America

- Meno mosso – end

Woodwind Instruments

Your required concerto/solo will be listed with the excerpts for your instrument.

Flute

Flutists are encouraged to prepare both flute and piccolo excerpts.

Mozart, Concerto in G: 1st mvmt, exposition; or Mozart, Concerto in D: 1st mvmt, exposition

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4

- Mvt. IV, Beginning until m34

Debussy: La Mer,

- Mvt. III 12 before reh 55 - 9 after 55

Shostakovich Symphony No.5:

- Mvt 1: 8 before reh 40 - 2 after reh 41
- Mvt 1: 3 before reh 45 - 2 after reh 45
- Mvt 2: Pickup to Reh. 59 – Reh. 61

Grantham, Donald, Fantasy Variations: 341 – 351.

Piccolo

Ravel Piano Concerto in G

- Mvt 1; Opening until Reh 2

Shostakovich Symphony No.

- Mvmt 2 [Reh. 53 – 2 measures after Reh. 54]

Gandolfi, Michael, Flourishes and Meditations on a Renaissance Theme

- bar 466 – 477

Oboe

Oboists are encouraged to prepare both oboe and English horn excerpts.

Mozart, Concerto in C: 1st **or** 3rd mvmt **or** Bach, Sinfonia to Cantata BWV 21

Stravinsky Pulcinella Suite

- Mvt. 6: Reh 73-76
- Mvt. 6: Reh 77- end of variation 1a

Mendelssohn – Symphony No. 3, op. 56, A minor

- Movement II: Pick up to mm. 33 - 100

Shostakovich Symphony No.5

- Mvt 1: Reh 19-25

- Mvt. 1: Reh 42- 43
- Mvt 2: Reh 69- 71

Grantham, Donald, Fantasy Variations: 341 – 351.

English Horn

Ravel Piano Concerto

- Mvt 2: Reh 6-10

Chen Yi, Dragon Rhyme

- I. Mysteriously: bar 91 – 103.

Clarinet

Clarinetists are encouraged to prepare clarinet, E-flat clarinet, and bass clarinet excerpts.

Mozart, Concerto in A: 1st mvt, exposition

Shostakovich Symphony No.5

- Mvt 1, 2 before Reh 37 - 4 after reh 43

Mendelssohn Midsummer Nights Dream

- Beg to Reh B (m. 1- 48)

Beethoven Symphony No. 6:

- Mvt. 1, ms 474 - 492
- Mvt. 2, ms 68 - 77

Grantham, Donald, Fantasy Variations

- bar 340 – 353.

E-flat Clarinet

Bernstein, Leonard/Lavender, Three Dance Episodes from “On the Town”

- III. Times Square: 1944: bar 1 – 14

Shostakovich Symphony No.5

- Mvt 2: Reh 49- 1 after 54

Bass Clarinet

Grantham, Donald, Fantasy Variations

- bar 330 – 341.

Mahler Symphony No. 6

- Mvt 1: [24] -12 after [24]

Bassoon

Bassoonists are encouraged to prepare both bassoon and contrabassoon excerpts.

Mozart, Concerto in B-flat: 1st, 2nd, or 3rd mvt

Ravel Piano Concerto

- Mvt 3; Bassoon 2 part; 12 before reh 15 - to 3 after reh 16

Stravinsky Pulcinella:

- Gavotta (con due variazioni): Variation IIa - Rehearsal 81 to 2nd ending after Rehearsal 84

Ravel Bolero

- 16 before reh 3 - reh 3

Ives, Charles/Schuman/Rhoads, Variations on America

- 1 before K – 12 after K.

Contrabassoon

Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

- Mvt 2, rehearsal 65–9 measures after rehearsal 68

Grantham, Donald, Fantasy Variations

- bar 342 – downbeat of 354

Saxophone

Please prepare all excerpts for the instrument(s) you will be auditioning on

A movement from a standard concerto

Alto Sax

Milhaud Creation du Monde: 7 before reh 9 - 13 after reh 13

Rachmaninoff, Symphonic Dances: 1st mvt, 4 before [11] until 4 after [13]

Zhou Tian, Sinfonia, I. Noir: bar 104 – end.

Soprano Sax (opt.)

Grantham, Donald, Fantasy Variations: 341 – 351.

Tenor Sax (opt.)

Prokofiev Romeo & Juliet

Montague & Capulets 2 after Reh 9 - 5 after reh 9

Child Juliet: Reh 17 (1st 4 measures), & Lento (last 2 measures)

Thomas, Omar, Come Sunday, I. Testimony: bar 4 – 21.

Bari Sax (opt.)

Bartók, The Wooden Prince: Suite Rehearsal “45” through nine

measures after Rehearsal “45”

Grantham, Donald, Fantasy Variations: 330 – 341.

Brass Instruments

Your required concerto/solo will be listed with the excerpts for your instrument.

Horn

Exposition/Mvt from standard concerto of choice, 1st or 3rd mvt preferred

Ravel Pavane for a Dead Princess

- beginning – 4 after A

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5: mvt. I

- 3 after rehearsal 17 to one after rehearsal 21

Beethoven Symphony No.6

- Mvt 3: ms 132-161

Strauss Til Eulenspiegel, Horn 3

- 12 before reh 28 - 2 before reh 33

Mahler Symphony No. 1, Horn 2

- Mvt 1, pickup to reh 26 - 2 before reh 29

Grantham, Donald, Fantasy Variations

- bar 342 – 352

Trumpet

Solo or Concerto movement of choice (2-3 mins)

Ravel: Piano Concerto in G major,

- Mvt 1: Reh 2– 3
- Mvt 1: Reh 34- End

Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherezade

- Tpt 2: Mvt 2: 16 measures before [K] to [L]
- Tpt 1: Mvt 3: [G] to 1 after [H]

- Tpt 1: Mvt 4: [Q] to [R]

Prokofiev Symphony No.5

- Mvt 1: 1 m. before Reh 8 - 2 before reh 9
- Mvt 1: 17 - 1 before 18
- Mvt 2: Reh 42 - 1 after 43

Bizet: Carmen, Prelude to Act I

- 3 after reh 6 - end

Grantham, Donald, Fantasy Variations: Trumpet 3

- bar 342 – 352

Trombone

A movement from a standard concerto (~2-3 mins)

Mozart Requiem

- Tuba mirum (tenor trombone) ms 1 -34

Schumann Symphony No.3

- Mvt 4: measures 1-23 (alto part)

Rossini: Overture to Guillaume Tell

- rehearsal C–nine measures after rehearsal D

Mahler Symphony No. 3

- Mvt. 1 [13] -1 after [17]

Ives, Charles/Schuman/Rhoads, Variations on America

- Meno mosso – end.

Bass Trombone

Mvt from standard concerto of choice (2-3 mins)

Berlioz Hungarian March

- Reh 4 to end

Wagner Ride of the Valkyries

- pick up to Reh 3 - 3 bars after Reh 6

Schumann Symphony No. 3 "Rhenish"

- Mvt. 4, mm. 1 - 18

Hindemith Symphonic Metamorphosis

- Mvt 2: Q to 1 after T

Ives, Charles/Schuman/Rhoads, Variations on America

- Meno mosso – end

Euphonium

A movement from a standard concerto

Mussorgsky/Ravel Pictures at an Exhibition

- Bydlo, Beginning - [39]

Holst The Planets

- I. Mars, [4] - 9 after [5]

Ives, Charles/Schuman/Rhoads, Variations on America

- Meno mosso – end

Tuba

Vaughan Williams, Concerto for Bass Tuba: 1st mvt, exposition and cadenza

Mahler Symphony No.1

- 3rd Mvt: 4 before reh 3 - reh 4

Strauss Ein Heldenleben

- 2 before Reh 58 to 1 after Reh 66

Prokofiev Symphony No. 5

- Mvt. 1, [3] - 7 after [5]

Wagner Prelude to Meistersinger

- [J] - 1 after [L]

Ives, Charles/Schuman/Rhoads, Variations on America

- Meno mosso – end

Harp, Percussion, and Piano

Your required concerto/solo will be listed with the excerpts for your instrument.

Harp

Harp solo piece of your choice. (No transcriptions.)

Elfrida Andrée - Svanen

- mm. 15- end of mm. 38

Rimsky-Korsakov Capriccio Espagnol

- fourth movement: Cadenza, complete

Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique

- Mvt. II; 12 before #29 - 4 after #29
- Mvt II; #31 - 1 after #35

Tchaikovsky: Romeo & Juliet Overture

- 10 mm. before A to A
- 8 after B - 8 before C
- J to 28 after J

Chen Yi, Dragon Rhyme

- I. Mysteriously: bar 1 – 4
- I. Mysteriously: bar 22 – 24
- I. Mysteriously: bar 47 – 49

Percussion

Marimba

A movement of J.S. Bach: from the Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin or the Six Suites for Solo Cello (no repeats)

Timpani

Bartok Concerto for Orchestra

- Mvt IV: m 42 - 50

Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4

- Mvt 1, ms 313-363

Bells

Debussy: La mer

- Mvt 2: 8 before reh 17 - reh 22
- Mvt 2: 9 before reh 26 - 7 before reh 26
- Mvt 33: 8 after Reh 55 - 3 after reh 59

Cymbals

Tchaikovsky Romeo & Juliet:

- E to 12 after E
- 2 before O to 12 after O

Xylophone

Gershwin Porgy & Bess

- Opening thru mm. 17

Tambourine

Dvorak Carnival Overture

- Beginning to 15 after B (with repeat)

Snare

Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade:

- Mvt. 3, [D] - 10 after [D]
- Mvt. 4, [P] - [U]

Drum Set

Thomas, Omar, Come Sunday

- II. Shout: bar 54 – 69

Piano

2-3 min solo repertoire of choice

and

Gershwin Prelude No. 2

Milhaud Creation du Monde

- 2 mm. Before # 26 - 3 after #31

Shostakovich Symphony No.5

- Mvt 1: 17-22

Respighi: Pines of Rome

- 2 before #13 - 4 after #17

Thomas, Omar, Come Sunday

- II. Shout: bar 42– 57