

The Colburn Community School of Performing Arts (CSPA)
2026-27 String Ensemble and String Orchestra Auditions

Audition Instructions

VIOLA

Please be prepared to demonstrate:

1. **Three-octave scale.** The scale should be memorized and played slurred—two quarter notes per bow—at a moderate tempo (quarter note = 72).
Auditioning for String Ensemble (SE) only: Prepare the C major scale.
Auditioning for String Orchestra (SO) only: Prepare the C melodic minor scale.
Auditioning for String Ensemble and String Orchestra: Prepare the C melodic minor scale.
2. **Polished solo piece.** Choose 2 to 3 minutes that represent your technical skill and musicianship.
4. **Audition excerpts.** Play the passage(s) identified by measure numbers at the top of each excerpt. Excerpts are bracketed.

Observe all bowings, dynamics, and tempo markings. You will be evaluated on the accuracy of your performance based on intonation, rhythm, dynamics, tone quality, and style. Preferred fingerings are suggested in some passages.

If you are auditioning for String Ensemble and String Orchestra, check both boxes on your application.

Auditioning for String Ensemble (SE) only: Prepare excerpts #1 and #2.

Auditioning for String Orchestra (SO) only: Prepare excerpts #3 and #4.

Auditioning for String Ensemble and String Orchestra: Prepare all excerpts.

Excerpt #1: Ashman and Menken, *Beauty and the Beast*

Excerpt #2: Handel, *La Réjouissance*

Excerpt #3: Holst, *Air from Brook Green Suite*

Excerpt #4: Corelli, *Concerto Grosso in G minor*

In order to facilitate page turns, place excerpts in a loose-leaf three-ring binder.

4. **Sight-reading.** The passage will be presented to you during your audition.

All applicants must be studying viola privately, and the private teacher's name and email must be listed on the application. Private teachers do not need to be Colburn faculty members.

Audition results will be sent to the email address given for the student's primary contact (Parent/Guardian #1) by midnight on Sunday, June 14, 2026.

Viola excerpt #1: Ashman and Menken, Beauty and the Beast
Measures 25-47, with pickup. Lyrically, quarter note = 88

(From Walt Disney's "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST")
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

VIOLA MELODY

Lyrics by HOWARD ASHMAN
Music by ALAN MENKEN
Arranged by BRUCE CHASE

Lyrically $\text{♩} = 88$

p cresc. *f*

dim. *mp*

mf *mp*

mf

25 *Freely* *cresc.*

f *a tempo*

mp *Slower*

Viola excerpt #2: Handel, La Réjouissance
Measures 1-16. Allegro moderato, half note = 72 (quarter note = 144). Do not take repeats.

Viola La Réjouissance

Retake bow (bring back to balance point) at each comma

G.F. Handel

Allegro moderato ♩ = 72 (♩ = 144)

Measures 1-4. *f*

Measures 5-10.

Measures 11-15.

Measures 16-16. *f* *p* *f*

Viola excerpt #3: Holst, Air from Brook Green Suite

Measures 9-23 and 65-83. Andante, quarter note = 88; Poco animato, quarter note = 92

Air

Andante $\text{♩} = 88$
PIZZ.

Musical score for measures 9-23. The score is written on a single staff in 3/4 time. It begins with a *p* dynamic and a *PIZZ.* instruction. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. A first ending bracket is marked with a '1' above it. At measure 9, there is a red bracket and the instruction *SOLI ARCO*. A '4' is written above the staff at measure 10, and another '4' is written above the staff at measure 17. A red bracket is also present at the end of the section at measure 23.

Poco animato $\text{♩} = 92$

Musical score for measures 65-83. The score is written on a single staff in 3/4 time. It begins with a *mf* dynamic and a *SOLI* instruction. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The music features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. A first ending bracket is marked with a '1' above it. At measure 65, there is a red bracket and the instruction *III. SOLI*. A '4' is written above the staff at measure 66, and another '4' is written above the staff at measure 74. A red bracket is also present at the end of the section at measure 83. The score includes dynamic markings *rit. e dim.* and *mf*, and a *v* (accents) marking.

