

Baldwin-Wallace College Youth Orchestra Program

Proficiency Requirements

String Ensemble

String Ensemble is designed for beginning string players. It is expected that they will have no previous ensemble experience and be beginning players.

- Skills: Students must be able to play in First Position. Rhythmic skills must encompass note values for whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes. Students must be able to play in 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4 time.
- Bowing: Students must demonstrate a basic understanding of the proper bow grip and instrument position.
- Scales: Students must be able to play G and D Major scales in one or two octaves.
- Pitch: Students must be capable of beginning to identify proper intonation independently.

String Orchestra

String orchestra is for those students planning to move on in their ensemble experience. It is a training ground for the more difficult skills needed in Junior and Senior Youth Orchestras.

- Skills: Students must be able to play in First Position, with all of the extensions. Violinists and violists must have beginning experience with Third Position. Cellists and bassists must have beginning experience with Second Position. Rhythmic skills must encompass the note values for whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes and the ability to use these notes in combinations.
- Bowing: Bowing styles must include staccato, hooked bowing, large slurs, and beginning bounce bow.
- Scales: Students must be able to play C, G, D, F, and B-flat Major scales. Some scales must be played two octaves.
- Pitch: Students must be able to play with good intonation.
- Study: Students are expected to be studying with a private teacher.

Junior Youth Orchestra

Junior Youth Orchestra is an advanced string orchestra. While there are no winds or percussion, the repertoire is standard orchestral material.

- Skills: Students must be able to play in First, Second, and Third Positions and extensions.
- Scales: Students must be able to play all Major scales, up to and including four sharps and four flats. Some scales must be played two octaves.
- Bowing: Bowing styles will include staccato, hooked, slurs, bounce, and spiccato.
- Pitch: Students must be able to play with good intonation.
- Study: Students are expected to be studying with a private teacher.

Senior Youth Orchestra

Senior Youth Orchestra is a full orchestra – strings, winds, and percussion. Repertoire is typically from the standard orchestral repertoire.

String requirements

- Skills: String students must be able to play in all Positions, up to and including Fifth Position.
- Scales: Students must be able to play all Major scales, up to and including five sharps and five flats. All scales must be played a minimum of two octaves.
- Bowing: Advanced bowing styles.
- Pitch: Students must be able to play with good intonation.
- Study: Students are expected to be studying with a private teacher.

Wind requirements

- Skills: Wind students should have experience playing in their school band or orchestra
- Scales: Students must be able to play ALL scales, including the minor scales, with proficiency
- Study: Students should have studied privately for at least two years and must continue to study privately while in the orchestra
- Preparation for auditions: Students need to prepare a classical etude or sonata—NO “Pop” literature