



Vancouver Academy of Music

Orchestral Program Auditions

Performing in a symphony orchestra is an exhilarating experience that teaches young musicians essential life skills such as communication, respect, and teamwork. VAM's Orchestral Program offers four levels of training that strike a balance between excellence and enjoyment.

VAM Pre-Junior Symphony (VAMPJ)

Recommended for: Strings, Suzuki 2-4/RCM1-3

VAMPJ Audition Requirements

1. Repertoire: a short piece or study

2. Scales (see below):

Violin: G major, D melodic minor
*(1 octave, quarter notes, 60 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

Viola: C major, G melodic minor
*(1 octave, quarter notes, 60 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

Cello: C major, G melodic minor
*(1 octave, quarter notes, 60 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

Double Bass: G major, G melodic minor
*(1 octave, quarter notes, 60 bpm,
two-note slurs)*

VAM Junior Symphony (VAMJS)

Recommended for: Suzuki 4-5/RCM 4-6

VAMJS Audition Requirements

1. Repertoire: a short piece or study
2. Scales (see below):

Violin: Ab major, B melodic minor
*(2 octaves, eighth notes, 60 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

Viola: Ab major, A melodic minor
*(2 octaves, eighth notes, 60 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

Cello: D major, C melodic minor
*(2 octaves, eighth notes, 60 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

Double Bass: G major, F melodic minor
*(2 octaves, eighth notes, 60 bpm,
two-note slurs)*

Winds: F, G, D major *(1 or 2 octaves)*

VAM Intermediate Symphony (VAMIS)

Recommended for: Suzuki 4-7/RCM 7-9

VAMIS Audition Requirements

1. Repertoire:
Strings: a short piece
Winds: 2 contrasting pieces or studies
2. Scales (see below):

Violin: Bb major, C melodic minor
*(3 octaves, sixteenth notes, 60 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

Viola: E major, F melodic minor

*(3 octaves, sixteenth notes, 60 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

Cello: E major, G melodic minor
*(3 octaves, sixteenth notes, 60 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

Double Bass: Bb major, C melodic minor
*(2 octaves, eighth notes, 60 bpm,
two-note slurs)*

Winds: Chromatic scale, F major, A major
(2 or 3 octaves)

VAM Symphony Orchestra (VAMSO)

Recommended for: Suzuki 7+/RCM 10+

VAMSO Audition Requirements

1. Repertoire:
One movement from a standard sonata or concerto
2. Orchestral excerpts (own choice):
Strings: one excerpt
Winds: two excerpts
3. Scales (strings only, see below):

Violin: F major, E melodic minor
*(3 octaves, sixteenth notes, 72 bpm,
twelve-note slurs)*

Viola: Ab major, F# melodic minor
*(3 octaves, sixteenth notes, 72 bpm,
twelve-note slurs)*

Cello: Ab major, B melodic minor

*(3 octaves, sixteenth notes, 72 bpm,
twelve-note slurs)*

Double Bass: A major, G melodic minor
*(3 octaves, eighth notes, 72 bpm,
four-note slurs)*

General Audition Requirements

1. One repertoire selection of your choosing
2. *Strings only: one major and one melodic minor scale. Scales can be one, two, or three octaves (depending on comfort level) and any key of the student's choosing.*