

Approximate skill levels for the UNH Youth Symphony Orchestras

Concert Orchestra (generally for younger students):

- Violin:
 - **Tone:** Perform with a characteristic but developing tone quality, capable of basic dynamic variations.
 - **Pitch:** Play in tune in first position, with backward and forward extensions (Low 1 and High 3).
 - **Rhythm:** Accurately perform rhythms ranging from whole notes to sixteenth notes, including slurs and simple dotted rhythms.
 - **Theory:** A solid ability to read music is required. UNH-YSO coaches are not able to teach students their parts individually by rote.
 - **Shifting:** Shifting to third position is required for 1st and 2nd violin parts. Students unable to shift may still be accepted but may be restricted to “3rd violin” (viola treble clef) parts.
- Viola:
 - **Tone:** Perform with a characteristic but developing tone quality, capable of common dynamic variations.
 - **Pitch:** Play in tune in first position, with backward and forward extensions (Low 1 and High 3).
 - **Rhythm:** Perform rhythms ranging from whole notes to sixteenth notes, including slurs and simple dotted rhythms.
 - **Theory:** A solid ability to read music is required. The UNH-YSO coaches are not able to teach students their parts individually, by rote.
 - **Shifting:** Shifting is rarely required of Concert Orchestra violists.
- Cello:
 - **Tone:** Perform with a characteristic but developing tone quality, capable of common dynamic variations.
 - **Pitch:** Play in tune in first position, with backward and forward extensions.
 - **Rhythm:** Perform rhythms ranging from whole notes to sixteenth notes, including slurs and simple dotted rhythms.
 - **Theory:** A solid ability to read music is required. The UNH-YSO coaches are not able to teach students their parts individually, by rote.
 - **Shifting:** Half-position and an introduction to higher positions is very valuable for Concert Orchestra cellists.
- Bass
 - **Tone:** Perform with a characteristic but developing tone quality, capable of common dynamic variations.
 - **Pitch:** Play in tune in first position and half-position.
 - **Rhythm:** Perform rhythms ranging from whole notes to sixteenth notes, including slurs and simple dotted rhythms.
 - **Theory:** A solid ability to read music is required. The UNH-YSO coaches are not able to teach students their parts individually, by rote.
 - **Shifting:** First and half-positions are required. The use of 3rd position on the G string is strongly encouraged.
 - Note: Bassist will be asked to perform a chromatic scale from the open E string up to “B” on the G string (first position).

Approximate skill levels for the UNH Youth Symphony Orchestras

Symphony Orchestra (generally ages 12 and older):

- Violin:
 - **Tone:** Perform with a resonant tone, capable of subtler dynamic changes.
 - **Pitch:** Play in tune in at least first and third positions. 1st violin parts will require additional positions.
 - **Rhythm:** Accurately perform rhythms ranging from whole notes to sixteenth notes, including slurs, complicated dotted rhythms, and syncopations.
 - **Theory:** A solid ability to read music is required.
- Viola:
 - **Tone:** Perform with a resonant tone, capable of subtler dynamic changes.
 - **Pitch:** Play in tune in first and third positions.
 - **Rhythm:** Accurately perform rhythms ranging from whole notes to sixteenth notes, including slurs, complicated dotted rhythms, and syncopations.
 - **Theory:** A solid ability to read music is required.
- Cello:
 - **Tone:** Perform with a resonant tone, capable of subtler dynamic changes.
 - **Pitch:** Play in tune in half- through fourth position.
 - **Rhythm:** Accurately perform rhythms ranging from whole notes to sixteenth notes, including slurs, complicated dotted rhythms, and syncopations.
 - **Theory:** A solid ability to read music is required.
- Bass
 - **Tone:** Perform with a resonant tone, capable of subtler dynamic changes
 - **Pitch:** Play in tune from half position through high G (octave harmonic).
 - **Rhythm:** Accurately perform rhythms ranging from whole notes to sixteenth notes, including slurs, complicated dotted rhythms, and syncopations.
 - **Theory:** A solid ability to read music is required.

Chamber Orchestra (no age restrictions):

The membership of the Chamber Orchestra will vary from year to year, depending upon auditions. Chamber Orchestra members will need to exceed all requirements for the Symphony Orchestra.