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MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Ensemble Guide

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metropolitan youth symphony

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## MYS Auditions

### OVERVIEW

All new and returning MYS students\* must play an audition for the MYS Conducting Staff to determine their group assignment. Based on this audition, the student will be placed in the most advanced ensemble the conductors feel will be a good fit; where students are challenged musically but can succeed and have fun.

This document includes an overview of all MYS ensembles, and the musical skills expected for each. Students and their families are expected to become familiar with this information as they prepare for their MYS audition.

Important notes to keep in mind:

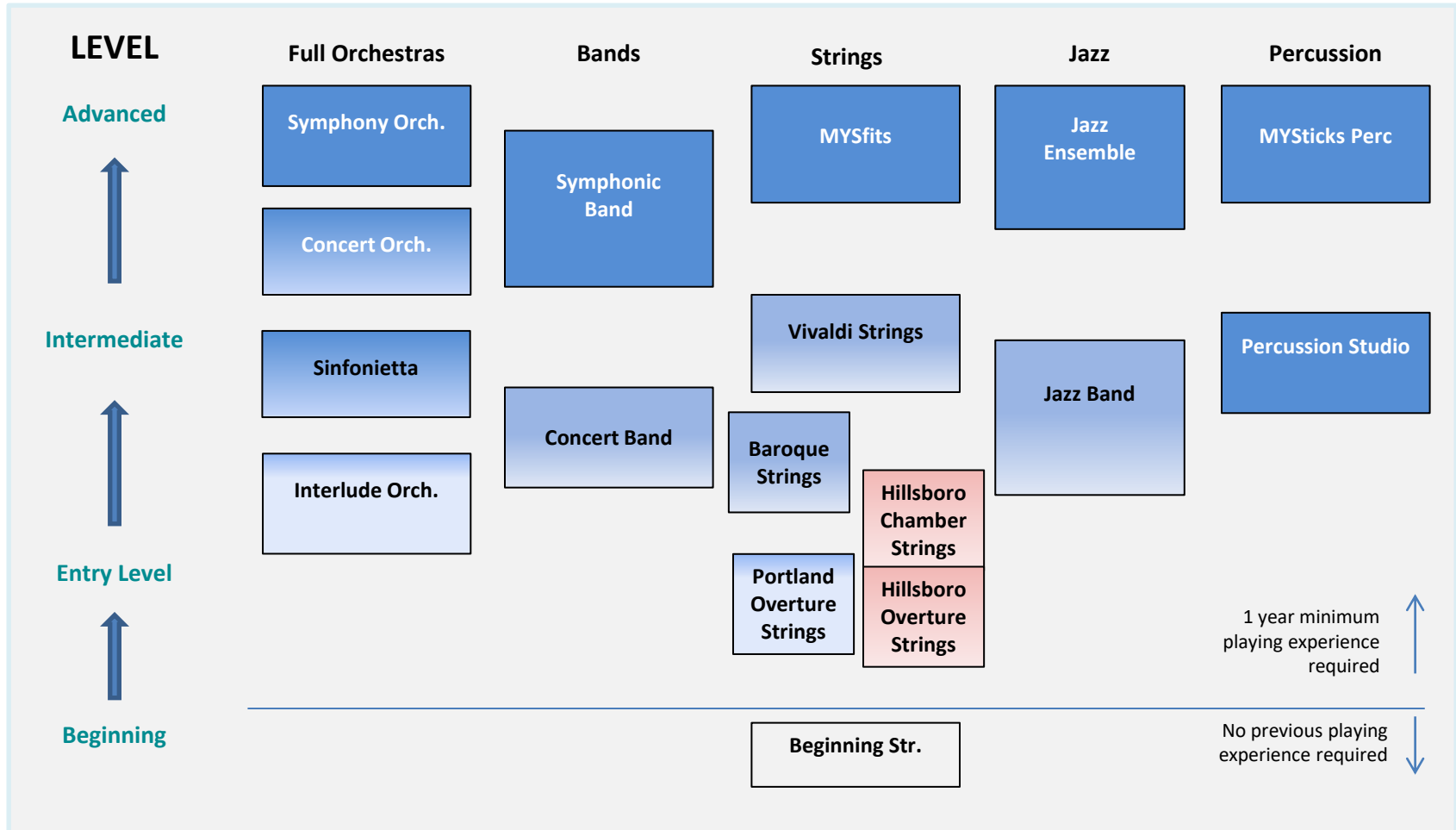
- Group assignments are valid for the entire school year.
- Students may play in a second MYS ensemble at no extra cost. Many wind/brass/percussion students choose to play with an Orchestra in the morning and with a Band in the afternoon.
- The average MYS student plays with the same ensemble for 2 years before moving on to the next.
- Typically, students grow their individual and ensemble skills during year 1, and become leaders in year 2, while continuing their musical advancement.

\*except students who are pre-registered for Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Band or Jazz Ensemble

**Auditions for the 2020-2021 season will be submitted via video.** Instructions for submitting a video audition will be emailed after the registration process has been completed. **If you are unable to submit a video audition, please complete the registration process and check the box at the end of the registration form that indicates you need an alternate way to audition and you will be contacted by the MYS staff. Please visit our Registration and Audition pages on our website [playmys.org](http://playmys.org) for more information.**

## Our Ensembles

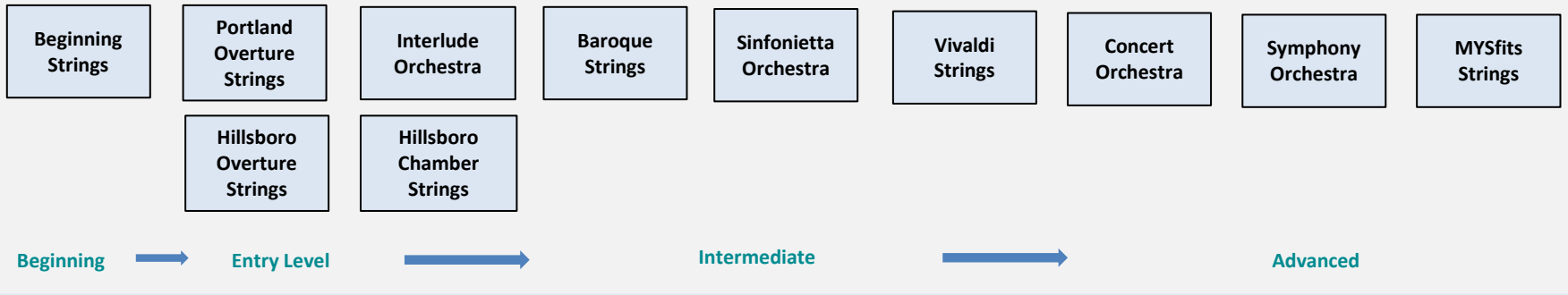
Ensembles and their conductors are arranged below by level and type, with most advanced at the top:



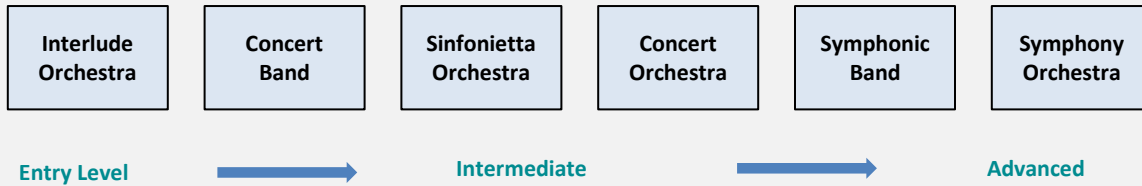
# Student Progression

Below is the typical progression across our ensembles as students advance their technical and ensemble skills:

## Strings

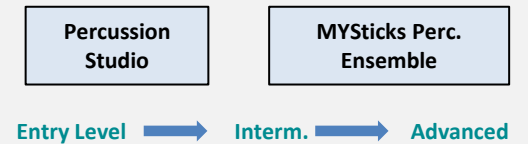


## Wind/Brass/Percussion

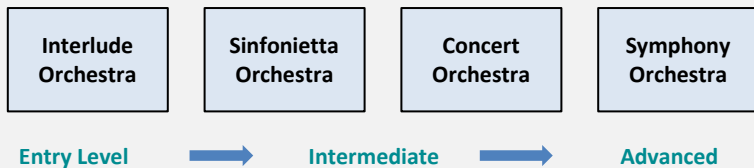


## Extra Percussion Training

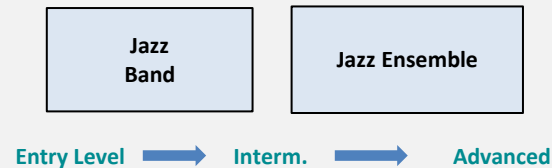
(in addition to ensembles listed on the left)



## Harp

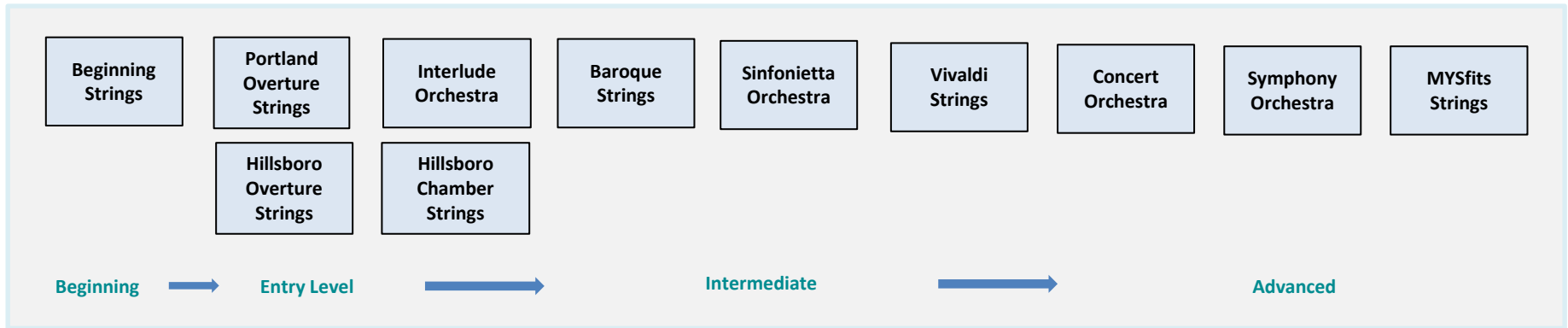


## Jazz



## Musical Skills Required

### Strings



#### Portland Overture Strings & Hillsboro Overture Strings:

- At least one year of playing experience
- Able to read music notation
- Facility throughout first position
- Know several major scales in at least 1 octave (2 octaves preferred)
- Knowledge of flats and sharps: low 1st finger, low/high 2nd, 3rd or 4th finger
- Level equivalent to end of Suzuki book 1 to Book 2
- Private Lessons recommended

#### Interlude Orchestra & Hillsboro Chamber Strings:

- Developing vibrato for all string players; slurred & staccato bowing styles
- Violins & violas: facility in third position
- Cellos: Knowledge of extensions & 4th position
- Level equivalent to Suzuki Books 2 - 3
- Private Lessons recommended

#### Baroque Strings:

- Most or all of major and minor (melodic and harmonic) scales in at least two octaves.
- Good vibrato and tone production
- Off-the-string bowing (spiccato)
- Violins & violas: facility up to 5th position
- Cellos: Knowledge of extensions & 5th position
- Level equivalent to Suzuki Books 3 - 4
- Private Lessons recommended

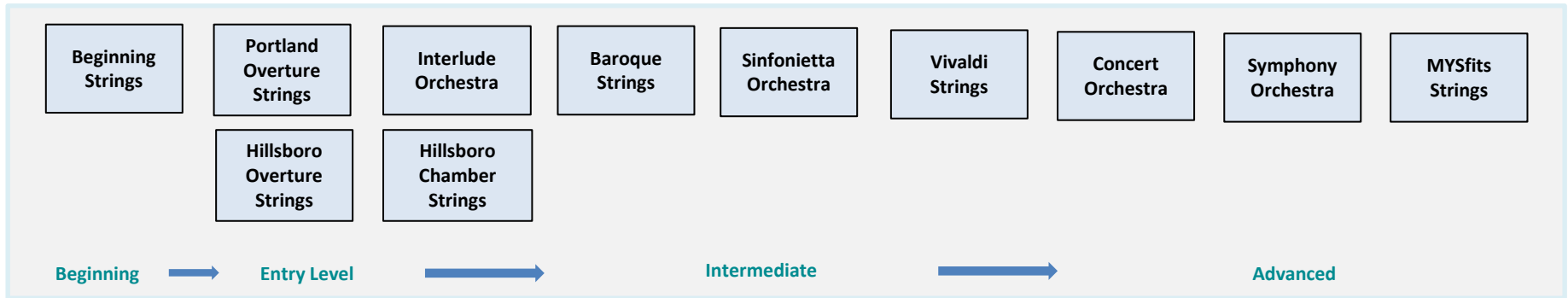
#### Sinfonietta Orchestra:

- Most or all of major and melodic scales in at least two octaves.
- Fully developed vibrato; slurred, spiccato & staccato bowing styles.
- Violins & violas: facility up to 5th position
- Cellos: Knowledge of extensions & 5th position
- Level equivalent to Suzuki Books 4 - 5
- Private lessons recommended

cont. next page →

## Musical Skills Required

### Strings (cont.)



#### Vivaldi Strings:

- Know most major and minor scales in at least three octaves with contrasting articulations, including spiccato
- Fully developed vibrato, slurred & staccato bowing styles.
- Violins & violas: facility up to 7th position
- Cellos: Knowledge of extensions & beyond 5<sup>th</sup> position
- Level equivalent to Suzuki books 6-7
- Private Lessons required

#### Concert Orchestra:

- All major and minor scales in at least 3 octaves with contrasting articulations, including spiccato
- Facility in all positions and bowing techniques
- Fully developed vibrato
- Cellists must be able to read and play fluently in tenor and treble clef
- Violists should have facility in treble clef
- Level equivalent to Suzuki Books 7-8; early concerto repertoire (e.g. for violins: Viotti, Accolay, Mendelssohn)
- Private Lessons required

#### Symphony Orchestra:

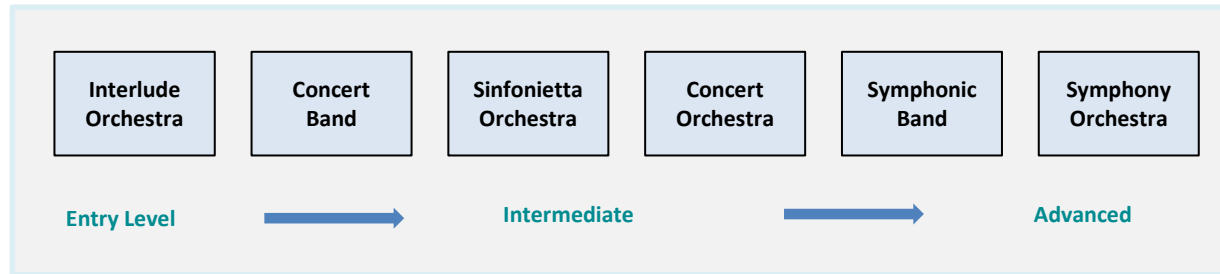
- All major and minor scales in at least 3 octaves with contrasting articulations, including spiccato
- Facility in all positions and bowing techniques
- Versatility in vibrato and bow strokes
- Violists must be able to fluently read and play in treble clef.
- Cellists must be able to fluently read and play in tenor AND treble clefs.
- Highly advanced/professional solo repertoire
- Private Lessons required

#### MYSfits

- Members of MYSfits are selected based on Symphony Orchestra seating auditions

## Musical Skills Required

### Winds/Brass



#### Interlude Orchestra / Concert Band

- Know chromatic scales and major and minor scales up to 3 sharps and flats in two octaves
- Comfortable reading in all meters including duple and triple
- Private lessons recommended

#### Sinfonietta Orchestra:

- Know chromatic scales and major and minor scales up to 3 sharps and flats in two octaves
- Comfortable reading in all meters including duple and triple
- Bassoonists must be able to read and play in tenor clef
- Clarinetists should have basic transposition skills
- Trumpet and horn players should have basic transposition skills
- Private Lessons highly recommended

#### Concert Orchestra:

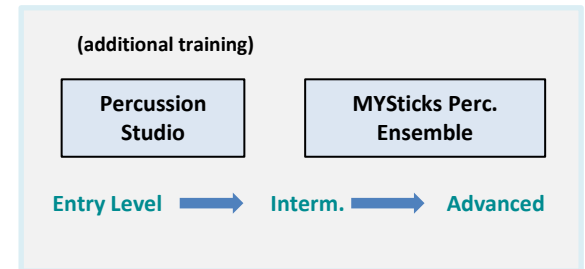
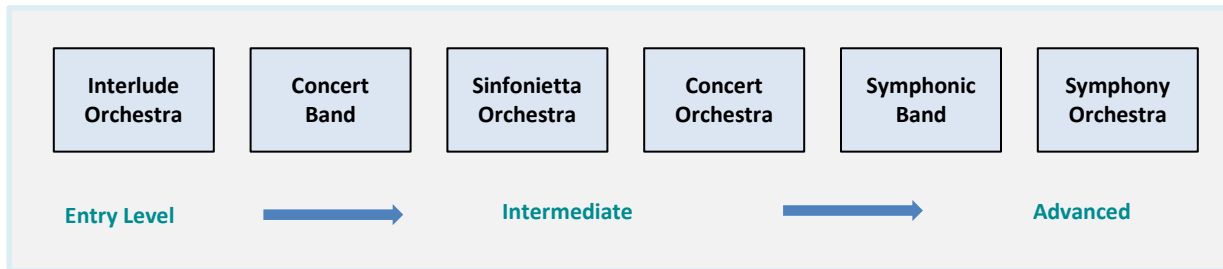
- Know chromatic scales and major and minor scales up to 4 sharps and flats in two octaves with contrasting articulations
- Comfortable reading in all meters including duple and triple
- Bassoonists must be able to read and play fluently in tenor clef
- Clarinetists should have strong transposition skills
- Trumpet and horn players should have strong transposition skills
- Must be taking private lessons

#### Symphonic Band / Symphony Orch.

- Know chromatic scales and all major and minor scales in at least two octaves
- Strong sight-reading skills, intonation, rhythm and musicality.
- Bassoonists & trombonists must be able to read and play in tenor clef.
- French horn, trumpet & clarinet players must have excellent transposing skills.
- Flute players may be asked to play piccolo.
- Clarinet players should have access to an A Clarinet, and may be asked to play bass clarinet and E-flat clarinet.
- Oboe players may be asked to play English Horn.
- Private lessons required

## Musical Skills Required

### Percussion



#### Entry Level

- At least one year of playing experience
- Have basic music-reading and playing skills
- Private lessons recommended

#### Intermediate

- Know major and minor scales (on xylophone) up to 3 sharps and flats
- Know basic timpani stroke and timpani roll
- Know closed "concert" snare drum roll
- Learning/developing mallet skills
- Must be taking private lessons

#### Advanced

- Know all major and minor scales (on xylophone)
- Know legato and staccato timpani stroke, pp—ff—pp timpani roll
- Snare Drum Rudiments:
  - Double Stroke Roll
  - Orchestral (multiple bounce) Roll
  - 9 Stroke Roll
  - Flam Tap
  - Flamacue
  - Double Paradiddle
- Experience in mallet instruments
- Must be taking private lessons

#### Notes:

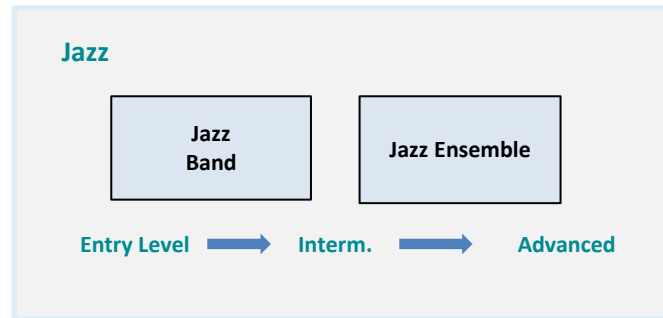
All MYS percussion students take part in Percussion Studio class with Mr. Michael Roberts. This class happens during regular rehearsal times on select weeks.

MYSticks Perc. Ensemble is made up of Symphony Orchestra percussionists and guests from other MYS ensembles as needed.



## Musical Skills Required

### Jazz



#### Entry Level / Intermediate

- Know at least five major scales  
Able to play a two-octave chromatic scale
- Sight-reading skills
- Able to play a transcription of a jazz solo

#### Advanced: Jazz Ensemble

- All major and dominant scales, and a two-octave chromatic scale
- Strong sight-reading skills
- Improvisation skills required

#### Advanced: Big Band

- All major and dominant scales, and a two-octave chromatic scale
- Strong instrumental skills
- Strong sight-reading skills
- Advanced improvisation skills are desirable but not required

#### Drummers

- Must be able to demonstrate:
1. Swing beat: medium and fast tempo
  2. Bossa Nova or Latin beat
- Sight-reading skills

Learn more about MYS, including upcoming performances, conductors' biographies and more at:

[www.playmys.org](http://www.playmys.org)