



2017-2018 NYC High School Admissions Instrumental Music Audition Guide

Everything you need to know about Instrumental Music audition programs

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Section I — How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help students and families prepare for the audition process. Through this guide you will:

- **Learn about instrumental music.** What do instrumental music programs entail? What can you expect as an instrumental music student? See the description below for more information.
- **Understand the audition process.** The overview on page two will let you know what to expect at a high school audition.
- **Review the Common Audition Components.** High schools that participate in Common Audition Components share the same audition guidelines. This guide includes the common audition components for participating instrumental music programs.
- **Prepare for the auditions.** Learn about audition components and tips for doing your best during an audition.
- **Build a list of instrumental music programs that interest you.** Browse this guide for a complete list of New York City high schools that offer programs to cultivate artistic talent. Use Section 6 to list the programs that look like a good fit for you and start creating your fall audition schedule.
- **Create your audition schedule.** Review the audition information and schedules for each program to plan your own audition calendar. For each program, there is a list of what to prepare for the audition, and what you will do at the audition.

What is Instrumental Music?

Instrumental music is a composition or recording primarily or exclusively produced by musical instruments. Instrumental music students develop their ability to perform increasingly complicated works on a musical instrument. Students study sight-reading, music theory, music history, technique, repertoire, and gain an understanding of music's social and cultural impact. Students often rehearse daily in large ensembles and may have performance opportunities throughout all four years of high school.

Section 2 — High School Audition Process Overview

Some high schools host auditions

An audition is a type of admissions method. To gain admission to certain high school arts programs, students must exhibit artistic skills at an audition. Auditions are also a great opportunity for students to meet school staff and ask questions about programs.

Students are expected to prepare and perform at an audition

Audition expectations will vary by high school program. Students should review the audition criteria that is published by schools in the High School Directory. If a student is auditioning for multiple programs focusing on the same art form, many audition components will be similar across the auditions (see program details in this guide for audition information). Students should note that they may not get to present everything that they have prepared for the audition.

Auditions are run by high schools

Typically auditions are run by school administrators and teachers. Some high schools have their current students assist with welcoming auditioning students and their families.

Audition dates, arrival times and locations may vary

Auditions are usually held at high schools from October to January. See program details in this guide for audition schedules.

Audition lengths may vary

The audition process can take 2-3 hours or longer. Students are encouraged to bring a light snack and water to auditions. Families should not register for auditions at multiple schools on the same day.

Families can wait nearby

There is often a designated waiting area for parents/guardians, as they are not allowed in the audition areas. Parents/guardians may choose to leave and re-enter the school building at any time. Communication between the student and their families should be made prior to the beginning of the audition process.

Acceptance to audition programs

In order to be considered for audition programs, students must also list the program on their High School Admissions Round I Application, which is due to their school counselor on December 1, 2017. Students will receive the results of the Round I Application the following March.

Questions about the audition process

This guide should answer most of your questions about the audition process. If you have specific questions about a school's audition, it's best to call or email the school directly for more information or visit the school website.

Audition accommodations

Students with individualized education programs (IEPs), approved 504 plans, and English Language Learners, may receive accommodations. Students should speak with their school counselor to arrange accommodations for auditions.

Section 3 — Audition Pre-registration and Common Audition Components

Below is some vocabulary about the audition process that families will need to learn as they prepare for auditions. These terms will also be found throughout the table in section five of this guide.

Pre-registration for Auditions

Certain audition programs require students to pre-register through the DOE's enrollment system. By pre-registering, students let school administrators know that they are attending the audition, and what program they are auditioning for. Students interested in auditioning for these programs may pre-register from September 7, 2017 to October 12, 2017. School counselors provide students with pre-registration surveys and complete pre-registration in the DOE enrollment system.

When pre-registration is not required for an audition, students are encouraged to check the school's website for an opportunity to register online. Otherwise students simply attend the audition for the on the date and time listed by the school in the High School Directory.

Programs with Common Audition Components

A select group of schools have programs that offer common audition components, which are indicated by the ★ icon next to the school name in section five of this document. These programs all share the same audition components so if students prepare for one they may be ready to audition at another participating program.

Common Audition Components – Instrumental Music Programs

You can also find this information on Page 27 of the 2018 New York City High School Directory

You may audition on more than one instrument. Perform a prepared solo selection. Bring your own instrument(s) (except piano, tuba, double bass, harp, percussion and guitar amplifiers, which are provided by the school). Audition includes on-site music tasks (may include singing back melodic patterns, tapping back rhythmic patterns, play selected scales, or completing a sight reading, music theory or improvisation task).

Programs may have different tasks that they offer on-site, including an interview, or on-demand writing sample, which may impact your preparation. Please read each school's audition information in this document. Also, be sure to visit the school webpage, or contact the school directly for the most up-to-date details.

Section 4 — How To Prepare for an Instrumental Music Audition

Selecting and Practicing Your Audition Repertoire

- Try to choose your repertoire well in advance of the audition.
- Select music that is written specifically for solo instrument (not music for which your instrument provides the harmony for other instruments).
- Select music that highlights your strengths. A difficult selection played well can show off your skills. However, an easier selection played with strong musicality and good intonation can be equally impressive.
- When practicing, prepare slow, expressive parts as carefully as you would up-tempo, technically challenging sections.
- Isolate and practice your weak areas. Spend time building your capacity so that all sections of your piece are performed with equal competency.
- Use a tuner and a metronome during the early stages of your practice to help rhythm.
- Practice performing your audition repertoire in front of an audience. Ask them to critique your performance and overall presentation.
- Practice sight-reading every day.

Instrumental Audition

- Prepare one piece that can be played through to the end.
- Be prepared to play a second selection in a contrasting style or tempo. However, you may not be asked to play a second selection.
- Be prepared to sight read a short musical passage (four to eight measures).
- Be prepared to play at least one scale and know all required scales from memory. However, it is acceptable to use sheet music when playing your prepared audition selection(s).

General Audition Advice

- Keep going even if you make a mistake. Do not get flustered. The adjudicator is most interested in determining your potential.
- If the adjudicator asks you to change the way you performed a passage, it doesn't necessarily mean you played or sang it incorrectly. He or she may wish to see how readily you are able to receive feedback and/or make a correction.

Resources for Selecting your Repertoire

- Ask your music teacher for help when selecting repertoire.
- [New York State School Music Association Manual, Edition 31](#). A professional resource for teachers and conductors, this book contains graded lists of repertoire for all voice types and instruments. It is available in some libraries or may be purchased from www.nyssma.org at a cost of \$55.
- You may be able to purchase sheet music for your repertoire at the following stores: [Sam Ash Music](#), [The Guitar Center Stores](#), [Music Time](#) (on line), J. W. Pepper (on line), [Catalano Music](#) (Long Island).

Section 5 — High School Programs and Audition Information

Below is a list of New York City high schools that offer instrumental music programs requiring an audition, including audition schedules and requirements. School names link to each school's website; program names link to each school's page in NYC School Finder (<http://schoolfinder.nyc.gov>).

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| Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music ★ 2780 Reservoir Avenue 10468 | BRONX |
| Program: Concert Band/Piano Directory pg. 78 | Code: X33A |
| <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details), and requests the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Bring your own instrument (except piano, tuba, double bass, percussion and amplifiers, which will be provided) and your mouthpieces. <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sight-reading and scales will be required. <p>2017-2018 Auditions Dates: <i>(Pre-registration is <u>not</u> required, see section 3 for details)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friday, November 17, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Friday, December 1, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9am ▪ Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 9am | |
| Program: Strings Directory pg. 79 | Code: X33M |
| <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details) <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sight-reading and scales will be required. <p>2017-2018 Auditions Dates: <i>(Pre-registration is <u>not</u> required, see section 3 for details)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friday, November 17, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Friday, December 1, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9am ▪ Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 9am | |
| Fordham High School for the Arts 500 East Fordham Road 10458 | BRONX |
| Program: Fordham High School for the Arts Directory pg. 98 | Code: X51A |
| <p>Audition information: This program offers a jazz curriculum for students who play band and rhythm section instruments. We do not have a string program.</p> <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students must bring their own instrument, sticks and music to the audition. <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Play a scale and selection of music from a book or solo of your own choice, and sight-read <input type="checkbox"/> You will complete a questionnaire, interview, and take a simple test for musical aptitude. <input type="checkbox"/> The audition includes a writing prompt. <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: <i>(Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 9am ▪ Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 9am ▪ Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9am | |

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| Theater Arts Production Company School (TaPCO) ★ 2225 Webster Avenue 10457 | BRONX |
| Program: Jazz Band/Piano Directory pg. 148 | Code: X20B |
| What to prepare for the audition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details) | |
| 2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is <u>not</u> required, see section 3 for details</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 1:30pm ▪ Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 1:30pm ▪ Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 1:30pm | |

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| Brooklyn High School of the Arts ★ 345 Dean Street 11217 | BROOKLYN |
| Program: Instrumental Music Directory pg. 201 | Code: K47K |
| What to prepare for the audition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details) <input type="checkbox"/> Beginners are welcome. | |
| 2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is <u>not</u> required, see section 3 for details</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 9am ▪ Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 9 am | |

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| Dr. Susan S. McKinney Secondary School of the Arts 101 Park Avenue 11205 | BROOKLYN |
| Program: Instrumental Music Directory pg. 227 | Code: K42E |
| What you will do at the audition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students must perform a prepared selection and two major scales. <input type="checkbox"/> Sight reading, rhythm and tonal memory will be tested. | |
| 2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is <u>not</u> required, see section 3 for details</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 3:30pm ▪ Friday, November 3, 2017 at 3:30pm ▪ Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 10am ▪ Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 3:30pm ▪ Friday, November 17, 2017 at 3:30pm | |

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| Edward R. Murrow High School ★ 1600 Avenue L 11230 | BROOKLYN |
| Program: Instrumental Music Directory pg. 234 | Code: K57L |
| What to prepare for the audition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details) | |
| 2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is <u>required</u>, see section 3 for details</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Last Name G-I, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 8:30am ▪ Last Name J-L, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 9:30am ▪ Last Name A-C, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 12:30pm ▪ Last Name D-F, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 1:30pm ▪ Last Name T-U, Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 8:30am ▪ Last Name V-Z, Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9:30am ▪ Last Name M-S, Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 12:30pm | |

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| Fort Hamilton High School 8301 Shore Road I209 | BROOKLYN |
| Program: Instrumental Music Directory pg. 239 | Code: K17R |
| <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumental students will be asked to demonstrate the ability to match pitch, tap rhythms and play various scales and/or exercises, as well as play a prepared selection of their choice. <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: <i>(Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 10am ▪ Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 10am ▪ Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 10am ▪ Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 10am | |
| Juan Morel Campos Secondary School ★ 215 Heyward Street I206 | BROOKLYN |
| Program: Instrumental Music Directory pg. 270 | Code: K11B |
| <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This school does not require students to audition to be considered for admissions. The audition date listed below is an opportunity for students and families to learn more about this program and participate in an exploratory activity. <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: <i>(Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 9am | |

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| Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts ★ 100 Amsterdam Avenue I0023 | MANHATTAN |
| Program: Instrumental Music Directory pg. 361 | NO CODE |
| <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details), and requests the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Applicants should prepare a solo selection to perform without accompaniment and bring one copy of the music they plan to perform. Applicants should bring their instruments to the audition, except those auditioning on piano, percussion, tuba, double bass, and harp. These instruments will be provided by the school at the audition. Amplifiers will also be provided at the audition for electric guitarists. <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Perform solo selection without accompaniment. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicants will be tested for rhythm and tonal memory and will be asked to complete a sight-reading of a given selection. <p><i>Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts is a Specialized High School. Register with your counselor.</i></p> | |
| Special Music School ★ 122 Amsterdam Avenue I0023 | MANHATTAN |
| Program: Voice, Instrument, and Composition Directory pg. 437 | Code: A85A |
| <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details) <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Audition performance, improvisation workshop, theory diagnostic, sight-reading, and instrument desirability. <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: <i>(Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friday, November 10, 2017 at 10am ▪ Monday, November 13, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 4pm | |

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| Talent Unlimited High School ★ 317 East 67th Street 10065 | MANHATTAN |
| Program: Instrumental Music Directory pg. 443 | Code: M42P |
| <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details), and requests the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Applicants must bring their instruments (EXCEPT percussion, piano, baritone sax, guitar amplifier, baritone horn, tuba, and double bass), and two copies of the sheet music. <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate competence and agility on their instrument by playing a selection of medium difficulty. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicants will be asked to play two scales from memory and sight-read excerpts. <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is <u>not</u> required, see section 3 for details</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 8am ▪ Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 3pm ▪ Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 3pm ▪ Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 8am ▪ Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 3pm | |
| Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing & Visual Arts ★ 215 West 114th St. 10026 | MANHATTAN |
| Program: Instrumental Music Directory pg. 464 | Code: M26M |
| <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details), and requests the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Applicants should bring their musical instrument to the audition and the sheet music needed for their performance. <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Perform a 2-3 minute instrumental piece of music. The style of music can be jazz, gospel, contemporary or classical. <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is <u>not</u> required, see section 3 for details</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 4:30pm ▪ Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 4:30pm ▪ Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 11:30am ▪ Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 4:30pm ▪ Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 11:30am | |

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| Bayside High School ★ 32-24 Corporal Kennedy Street, Bayside 11361 | QUEENS |
| Program: Music: Performance & Production Directory pg. 484 | Code: Q12B |
| <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details), and requests the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumentalists should prepare three scales of their choice. <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students may audition for the program by playing ANY instrument and/or singing a prepared musical selection in any style. <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning students are encouraged to attend the audition for a musical aptitude test, as well as an interview. <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is <u>not</u> required, see section 3 for details</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 9am ▪ Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 9am | |

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| Forest Hills High School ★ 67-01 110th Street, Forest Hills 11375 | QUEENS |
| Program: Academy of Instrumental and Vocal Music Directory pg. 503 | Code: Q19P |
| <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This program has common audition components (see section 3 for details), and requests the following: <input type="checkbox"/> The audition includes onsite music tasks (may include singing back melodic patterns, tapping back rhythmic patterns, play selected scales, or completing a sight reading, music theory, or improvisation task). <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is <u>not</u> required, see section 3 for details</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Last name A-L, Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 4pm ▪ Last name M-Z, Monday, November 13, 2017 4pm ▪ Make-up, Thursday, November 16, 2017 4pm | |
| Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School 35-12 35th Avenue, Astoria 11106 | QUEENS |
| Program: Instrumental Music Directory pg. 508 | Code: Q40K |
| <p>What to prepare for the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bring your own instrument (except piano, tuba, double bass, percussion instruments, guitar amplifiers); bring two copies of audition music. <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Perform at least one solo selection and three major scales. <input type="checkbox"/> Take a sight reading test and a rhythmic comprehension test in which you are required to tap back rhythmic patterns. <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Queens; Last Name A-M, Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 7:30am ▪ Queens; Last Name N-Z, Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 7:30am ▪ Citywide; Last Name A-M, Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 7:30am ▪ Citywide; Last Name N-Z, Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 7:30am ▪ Make-Up, Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 7:30am ▪ Make-Up, Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 7:30am | |

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| Susan E. Wagner High School 1200 Manor Road 10314 | STATEN ISLAND |
| Program: Music Directory pg. 600 | Code: R17G |
| <p>What you will do at the audition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Music students must perform a brief instrumental audition including the required materials found on the Wagner website: www.wagnerhigh.net. <p>2017-2018 Audition Dates: (<i>Pre-registration is required, see section 3 for details</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 2:45pm ▪ Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 2:45pm ▪ Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 2:45pm | |

Section 6 — Your Personal Audition Schedule

Create your personal audition schedule by listing the high school programs that you are interested in, noting the audition date/time, and checking if pre-registration is required.

| My Audition Program/ School: | Audition Date/Time: | Pre-registration Required? |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| 14. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| 18. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |