



First Violin (5th chair, 1 position) & Section First Violin (2 positions) Auditions November – December 2026

GENERAL AUDITION INFORMATION

Please read all of this information carefully and retain for your future reference. All questions regarding the audition and this information must be directed to the Orchestra Personnel Office only. We request that you do not contact members of the audition committee. The preferred method of contact is by email to auditions@pittsburghsymphony.org.

To apply for this audition, please **submit the online application form** on the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's (PSO) website at www.pittsburghsymphony.org/auditions on or before the **deadline of Monday, August 10, 2026**. All rounds of this audition will take place at Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. The Preliminary and Semi-Final rounds of auditions are scheduled for November 1-4, 2026. The Final round is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, December 1, 2026. **Please await confirmation of your audition before making travel plans.**

Note we will be able to reimburse up to \$300 of travel (not lodging) for any candidate required to come to Pittsburgh for two (2) trips, i.e. anyone advancing from semi-finals into finals; reimbursement is not provided to anyone advanced directly to finals.

Deposits will not be required for this audition, but we kindly ask you to show courtesy to the audition committee by letting us know at least seven days prior to the audition date if you will not attend. **Candidates must show a photo ID upon check-in at the audition.**

Taped excerpts may be requested at the discretion of the Audition Committee and will be due Monday, September 28, 2026. Directions for submitting recordings will be communicated with the request for recording. **Recording repertoire is listed on page 4 of this document.**

POSITION DETAILS

There are three (3) positions available: First Violin (5th chair) and Section First Violin (2 positions). Additional tenure-track or one-year positions may be offered as the result of this audition. **Candidates do not need to let us know if they wish to be considered for the 5th chair position until the final round.**

Position to begin February 1, 2027, or by the mutual agreement of the PSO and winning candidate, but no later than September 6, 2027. Pay for the 2026-27 Season is at minimum orchestra weekly scale of \$2,345.15, and the annual Electronic Media Guarantee is \$2,072.40. The PSO schedule has ten (10) collective vacation weeks for members each season, paid at the same rate as work weeks.

Any offer of full-time employment is contingent upon the successful completion of all background checks, as required by the Pittsburgh Symphony, Inc.

Musicians hired by the PSO are responsible for having and maintaining authorization to be employed in the United States of America, and to travel on international tours as a musician with the PSO. The PSO will act as sponsor for visa petitions for musicians who are offered or have positions as members of the orchestra, however it is the musician's responsibility to bear all costs associated with the petition and meet all required deadlines.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is proud to be a partner orchestra of the National Alliance for Audition Support (NAAS). You may qualify for financial assistance from NAAS for this audition. More information can be found [here](#).



**FIRST VIOLIN (5th Chair, 1 position) &
SECTION FIRST VIOLIN (2 position)
(3 positions total)
Auditions November & December 2026**

I) SOLOS (TWO required)

Mozart Concerto No.4 **OR** No.5:
Movement I with cadenzas; **and**
Movement II exposition

AND

Movement I with cadenza from **one** of the following concerti:
Bartok No. 2, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvořák, Mendelssohn Op.64, Sibelius, or Tchaikovsky

II) ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS

BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 1 ○ Movement IV: beginning – downbeat m. 46
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 9 ○ Movement III: m. 99 – m. 114
BRAHMS	Symphony No. 2 ○ Movement I: m. 118 – m. 155 ([E] – [F]) ○ Movement II: m. 51 – m. 55
CHIN	<i>subito con forza</i> ○ m. 44 – m. 70 (top line only)
DEBUSSY	<i>La mer</i> ○ [33] – 6 m. after [38]
MAHLER	Symphony No. 5 ○ Movement I: [7] – [11]
MENDELSSOHN	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> ○ Scherzo: m. 17 – m. 99 (m. 17 – 7 m. after [D])
MOZART	Symphony No. 39 ○ Movement IV: beginning – m. 78

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SCHOENBERG	<i>Verklärte Nacht</i> (original string sextet version) ○ m. 155 – m. 188 (6 before [H] – [K])
SCHUMANN	Symphony No. 2 ○ Movement II: beginning – m. 54 ○ Movement II: Coda: m. 361 - end
STRAUSS	<i>Eine Alpensinfonie</i> ○ Upbeat to [138] – [142]
STRAUSS	<i>Don Juan</i> ○ First Page

A complete packet of all excerpts will be made available to audition applicants when invitations are sent.

Sight-reading may be asked in any round of the audition.

Repertoire list is subject to change.

The official pitch of the PSO is A=440

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SECTION FIRST VIOLIN (2 position)
(3 positions total)
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RECORDING REPERTOIRE

I. SOLO

Mozart Concerto No. 4 **OR** No. 5: Movement I exposition

II. ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS

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| BRAHMS | Symphony No. 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Movement I: m. 118 – 155; [E] – [F] |
| SCHUMANN | Symphony No. 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Movement II: beginning – m. 52 |