

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Principal Viola Audition
November 2026

I. SOLO REPERTOIRE (THREE SOLOS REQUIRED)

First movement from one of the following concerti:

Bartok, Hindemith (*Der Schwanendreher*), or Walton

and

J.S. Bach, one movement from either a Cello Suite OR Violin Sonatas and Partitas.

and

Mozart *Sinfonia Concertante*, K. 364

- Movement I: m. 72-158

II. ORCHESTRAL SOLOS

BERLIOZ

Harold in Italy

- Movement I: 12 m. before [3] – 10 m. after [5]
- Movement I: 20 m. after [6] – 41 m. after [6]

BRITTEN

Passacaglia from *Peter Grimes*, Op. 33b

- Pickup to [12] – 10 m. after [12]

ENESCU

Romanian Rhapsody No. 1

- 1 m. after [7] – [8]

GINASTERA

Variaciones Concertantes

- Variation 5: [32] – 1 m. before [35]

PUCCINI

Manon Lescaut Intermezzo

- Beginning – m.12

RAVEL

Mother Goose Suite

- Movement V: 4 m. after [2] – 3 m. after [3]

STRAUSS

Don Quixote

- [26] – 3 m. before [28]
- [29] – [34]

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(repertoire list continued)

III. ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS

BRAHMS	Symphony No. 4 • Movement IV: m. 41 – m. 80
COPLAND	<i>Appalachian Spring Suite</i> (full orchestra version) • [6] – [10]
MAHLER	Symphony No. 10 • Adagio: [12] – [13]
MENDELSSOHN	<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> • Scherzo
MOZART	Symphony No. 35 • Movement IV: m. 134 – m. 181
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 5 • Movement I: [15] – [17]
STRAUSS	<i>Don Juan</i> • Beginning – 17 m. after [C]
STRAUSS	<i>Ein Heldenleben</i> • [77] – 4 m. after [79] • Pickup to [94] – 2 m. after [97]
TCHAIKOVSKY	Symphony No. 6 • Movement I: m. 19 – end of m. 67
WAGNER	Overture to <i>Tannhäuser</i> • m. 220 – m. 301 ([H] – 29 m. after [K])

IV. POSSIBLE SIGHT READING

*Excerpts will be made available to audition applicants upon invitation to the audition.
Sight-reading may be asked in any round of the audition.
The official pitch of the PSO is A=440*

BERLIOZ: *Harold in Italy*

- Movement I: 12 m. before [3] – 10 m. after [5]

[illegible]

BERLIOZ: *Harold in Italy*

o Movement I: 20 m. after [6] – 41 m. after [6]

Viola-Solo

(Allegro. (♩.))

Solo.

6

p *cresc. poco a poco*

12 *ff*

13 14 15

espress.

riten. **Tempo I.**

cresc. molto *sf* *mf espress.*

BRITTEN: Passacaglia from *Peter Grimes*

- Pickup to [12] – 10 m. after [12]

Viola

Andante moderato
(come sopra)

Sola (2)

pp Last desk only *dolcissimo ed espress.*

pp Sul C

espr. *pp* *pp*

f *dim*

Last desk

pp *pp* *quasi niente*

Last desk

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ENESCU: Romanian Rhapsody No. 1

- 1 m. after [7] – [8]

Viola

1 Alto seul **7** Posément

archet

f

mp

sf *douloureux*

avec les autres **8**

p

Tous DIV.

GINASTERA: Variaciones Concertantes

o Variation 5: [32] – 1 m. before [35]

Viola

(Largo J)

pp

Liberamente

mf

32

33

f molto espressivo.

34

agitato

3

Poco rall. accel.

7

rall.

piii f

3

molto.

A tempo

35

36

mp

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PUCCINI: *Manon Lescaut* Intermezzo

- Beginning – m. 12

Viola

sost. do

1^a SOLA

LENTO ESPRESSIVO

DIVISE

2^a e 3^a

1

mf con espressione

3

p

dim.

molto rall. lunga

RAVEL: Mother Goose Suite

o Movement V: 4 m. after [2] – 3 m. after [3]

Viola

(Lent et grave)

The musical score for Viola in Ravel's Mother Goose Suite, Movement V, is presented in three systems. The first system begins with a piano accompaniment marked 'DIV.' and a solo section marked '2' and '3' with '1 ALTO SOLO' and 'mf expressif'. The second system continues the solo with markings '1', 'p', and 'pp'. The third system is a short solo section marked 'SOLO' and 'TOUS pizz.' with a piano 'p' marking.

STRAUSS: Don Quixote

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○ [29] – [34]

Viola

(Mässiges Zeitmass.)

etwas drängend

29

f

1

1

f

cresc.

lebhaft

ff

f

ff

pizz.

mf

STRAUSS: Don Quixote

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○ [29] – [34]

Measure 29: Solo. *ff* tutti *ff* *mf*

Measure 30: *p* *arco* *pp* *pp*

Measure 31: *f* *mf* *p*

Measure 32: *f* *ff* *ff*

Measure 33: *mf* *pizz.* *dreifach p* *dim.* *dim.*

Measure 34: *arco* 1 4

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 4
○ Movement IV: m. 41 – m. 80

Viola

(Allegro energico e passionato)

40 [B] *cresc. sempre più*

47 *espress. cresc.*

54 [C] *f f più f*

60 *cresc. ff f*

66 *sf sf fp dim.*

71 *f* 6 3 3

75 *p dim. pp*

The musical score is for the Viola part of the fourth movement of Brahms' Symphony No. 4, measures 41 through 80. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is written on seven staves. Measure 40 begins with a bracketed section labeled 'B'. The music features a variety of dynamics, including *cresc. sempre più*, *espress. cresc.*, *f f più f*, *cresc.*, *ff*, *f*, *sf*, *fp*, *dim.*, *p dim.*, and *pp*. There are also articulation marks like accents and slurs. The score ends with a large closing bracket at measure 80.

COPLAND: *Appalachian Spring* Suite (full orchestra version)

○ [6] – [10]

Viola

Allegro (♩ = 160)

⑥ **Tutti** *f* **Vigorouso**

HALF pizz. 3

arco **Tutti** *mf* ⑦

V pizz. arco V pizz. arco pizz. div. $\frac{1}{2}$ pizz. arco V V V V V

⑧ 2 unis. arco *f marc.*

⑨

⑩

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MAHLER: Symphony No. 10

o Adagio: [12] – [13]

Viola

unis. 1 pizz. 2 (12) arco f *morendo* f

Andante p p *sempre* mf f

mf dim. p sf sf (13)

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MENDELSSOHN: *Midsummer Night's Dream*

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o Scherzo

Viola

Allegro vivace.

[N°1. 16

p *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *f* *f* *p* *f* *f* *p* *pp* *p* *D* 21

- Scherzo

E

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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o Scherzo

1

3 L 16 M

mf *cresc.* *mf*

5 *mf* *p* *mf* *mf*

4 5 2 2 *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr*

N *p*

p

cresc. *mf* *f*

3 *p*

pp

sempre più pp *sempre stacc.*

2 *Q* *dim.*

9 *pp* *pizz.*

MOZART: Symphony No. 35
○ Movement IV: m. 134 – m. 181

Viola

(Presto)

134

139

147 *p*

152 *f*

158

163

168

173

178

sf *sf*

The musical score is written for Viola in 3/8 time, key of D major (two sharps). It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a large bracket on the left and ends with a large bracket on the right. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) at measure 147 and *f* (forte) at measure 152. The final two staves end with *sf* (sforzando) markings.

SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 5

o Movement I: [15] – [17]

Viola

(Moderato)

94 14 3 unis. p cresc. ff dim. ppp 5 15 1 p espress.

108 16

17 12

The musical score is written for Viola in G major, 3/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff begins at measure 14 with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains measures 14, 15, and 16. Measure 14 starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. Measure 15 contains a half note C5, a quarter note B4, and a half note A4. Measure 16 contains a half note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a half note E4. The second staff begins at measure 16 with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains measures 16, 17, and 18. Measure 16 contains a half note D5, a quarter note C5, and a half note B4. Measure 17 contains a half note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. Measure 18 contains a half note E4, a quarter note D4, and a half note C4. The third staff begins at measure 17 with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains measures 17, 18, and 19. Measure 17 contains a half note B3, a quarter note A3, and a half note G3. Measure 18 contains a half note F#3, a quarter note E3, and a half note D3. Measure 19 contains a half note C3, a quarter note B2, and a half note A2. The score includes dynamic markings: *p* (piano), *cresc.* (crescendo), *ff* (fortissimo), *dim.* (diminuendo), *ppp* (pianissimo), and *p espress.* (piano, expressive). There are also performance instructions: *unis.* (unison) and *espress.* (expressive). The measures are numbered 14, 15, 16, and 17. The first staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

STRAUSS: Don Juan

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o Beginning – 17 m. after [C]

Viola

Allegro, molto con brio

The musical score for the Viola part of Strauss's Don Juan, measures 17 to 34, is presented in ten staves. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked "Allegro, molto con brio". The score begins with a forte (ff) dynamic and features a variety of musical textures, including rapid sixteenth-note passages, triplets, and sustained chords. The dynamics fluctuate, with moments of fortissimo (fff) and fortissimo (ff), as well as a section marked "pizz." (pizzicato) and "arco" (arco). The score concludes with a section marked "tranquillo" and a piano (p) dynamic, ending with a first ending bracket.

STRAUSS: Don Juan

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o Beginning – 17 m. after [C]

molto vivo
C
f
p
p
cresc. - - - *espr.* - -
espr.
rapidamente
ff
trem.
fpp

STRAUSS: *Ein Heldenleben*

○ [77] – 4 m. after [79]

Viola

(Festes Zeitmass. (sehr lebhaft.))

The musical score is written for the Viola part of Richard Strauss's 'Ein Heldenleben'. It consists of five staves of music. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo/mood is marked '(Festes Zeitmass. (sehr lebhaft.))'. The score begins with a double bar line and a fermata over the first measure. The first staff contains measures 77 and 78, with a forte (ff) dynamic marking at the start of measure 77. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff features a complex, rapid passage with many beamed sixteenth notes. The fourth staff continues this rapid passage. The fifth staff begins with measure 79, marked with a fortissimo (fff) dynamic, and ends with a double bar line and a first ending bracket.

STRAUSS: *Ein Heldenleben*

○ Pickup to [94] – 2 m. after [97]

Viola

Mässig langsam. 4 Pauke.

94

Heftig bewegt.

wütend

95

96

97

This musical score is for the Viola part of Richard Strauss' 'Ein Heldenleben'. It covers measures 94 through 97. The score is written on eight staves, alternating between treble and bass clefs. Measure 94 begins with a pickup from measure 93, marked 'Mässig langsam.' (Moderately slow) and '4 Pauke.' (4 measures of drum). The tempo changes to 'Heftig bewegt.' (Vigorously moved) at measure 95. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The score includes various dynamic markings: 'f' (forte), 'ff' (fortissimo), 'fff' (fortississimo), 'sfz' (sforzando), and 'wütend' (furious). There are also articulation marks like accents and slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 97.

TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 6
o Movement I: m. 19 – end of m. 67

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Viola

Allegro non troppo

19 **div.** *p*

23 *p*

30 *pp* **A** *pp*

34 *p* *p* *p* *p* *mp* *mp*

TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 6
o Movement I: m. 19 – end of m. 67

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37 *cresc.* - - *f* *mf* *p* *pp* *saltando*

43 *unis.* *p*

47 *V*

50 *B* *mp*

53 *pp*

56 *pp* *p* *p* *mp*

59 *mp*

61

63 *C* *p* *p*

65 *mp* *mp* *f* *Un poco animando*

WAGNER: Overture of Tannhäuser

Page 1 of 2

o m. 220 – m. 301 ([H] – 29 m. after [K])

Viola

(Allegro (♩))

The musical score for the Viola part of Wagner's Overture of Tannhäuser, measures 220 to 301, is presented in a single system. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is common time (C). The score begins with a large bracket on the left side, spanning measures 220 to 235. The tempo is marked 'Allegro (♩)'. The dynamics are marked 'p molto espressivo' at measure 220, 'p' at measure 225, 'un poco accel.' at measure 230, 'sempre cresc.' at measure 235, and 'f più f' at measure 242. The tempo changes to 'I Tempo I' at measure 242. The dynamics are marked 'ff' at measure 242, 'ff' at measure 250, and 'ff' at measure 254. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and triplets. The measures are numbered 220, 225, 230, 235, 242, 246, 250, 254, 258, 261, and 264.

WAGNER: Overture of Tannhäuser

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o m. 220 – m. 301 ([H] – 29 m. after [K])

267

270

K Molto vivace

273

ff

278

ff

283

ff

290

293

ff

297

301

ff