

HOCHSTEIN

ORCHESTRAL PROGRAM

Audition Information for 2026-2027 School Year

Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra (HYSO)

Casey Springstead
Director

Grades 7-12

Fee: \$20 registration fee; \$620 tuition payable in quarterly installments; For students enrolled in individual instruction at Hochstein, no registration fee and \$545.60 tuition payable in quarterly installments

Audition Requirements

- NYSSMA Level 6 (recommended)
- 2 min. excerpt of solo, fast tempo
- 2 min. excerpt of solo, slow tempo
- Orchestral excerpts
- Sight Reading

Excerpts available online
March 9

Application Deadline
April 6, 2026

In-Person Audition Dates

Violin
April 21, 2026
Winds/Brass/Percussion/Harp
April 22, 2026
Viola/Cello/Bass
April 23, 2026

Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra (HPO)

John Fetter
Director
Matt Osika
Assistant Director

Grades 6-12

Fee: \$20 registration fee; \$580 tuition payable in quarterly installments; For students enrolled in individual instruction at Hochstein, no registration fee and \$510.40 tuition payable in quarterly installments.

Audition Requirements

- NYSSMA Level 5-6 (recommended)
- 2 min. excerpt of solo, fast tempo
- 2 min. excerpt of solo, slow tempo
- Orchestral excerpts
- Sight Reading

Excerpts available online
March 30

Application Deadline
April 27, 2026

In-Person Audition Dates

Winds/Brass/Percussion/Harp
May 12, 2026
Strings
May 13, 2026

Hochstein Sinfonia Strings (HSS)

John Fetter
Director
Terry Smith
Assistant Director

Grades 4-9

Fee: \$20 registration fee; \$555 tuition payable in quarterly installments; For students enrolled in individual instruction at Hochstein, no registration fee and \$488.40 tuition payable in quarterly installments.

Audition Requirements

- NYSSMA Level 4-5 (recommended)
- 2 min. excerpt of solo, fast tempo
- 2 min. excerpt of solo, slow tempo
- Orchestral excerpts
- Sight Reading

Excerpts available online
March 30

Application Deadline
April 27, 2026

In-Person Audition Date

Strings
May 11, 2026

Hochstein Concertino Strings (HCS)

Marcos Kreutzer
Director

Grades 1-5

Fee: \$20 registration fee; \$515 tuition payable in quarterly installments; For students enrolled in individual instruction at Hochstein, no registration fee and \$453.20 tuition payable in quarterly installments.

Audition Requirements

- NYSSMA Level 2-3 or Suzuki Book III
- One representative solo piece
- Orchestral excerpts
- Sight Reading
- Minimum repertoire requirements: Violin/ Viola: P. Martini, Gavotte Cello: R. Schumann, The Two Grenadiers

Excerpts available online
March 30

Application Deadline
April 27, 2026

In-Person Audition Date

Strings
May 9, 2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS

Q: What is the Audition Committee looking for?

A: The Audition Committee considers:

- Good tone production
- Technical expertise at the appropriate level
- Musicality and expressiveness
- Rhythmic accuracy
- Solid intonation
- Sight reading skills

Q: How should I select the slow and fast excerpts?

A: Consult with your private teacher who can advise you as to which excerpts best showcase your technique and musicality.

Q: What if I'm auditioning for HYSO, but my current solo is at NYSSMA Level 5?

A: Recommended NYSSMA Levels for all orchestras are general guidelines. Your private teacher can help you determine which orchestra is the best match for you.

Q: I have prepared a solid Level 5 solo, and am working on a Level 6. Which one should I play?

A: Select the music that you are most confident in playing, is at your level, and best displays your ability. As always, your private teacher is an excellent resource for helping you to choose the most appropriate piece.

Q: I would like to be considered for more than one ensemble (HYSO and Philharmonia or Philharmonia and Sinfonia). Should I prepare both sets of excerpts?

A: Prepare only the excerpts for the highest level ensemble. On your application, you must indicate that you would like to be considered for more than one ensemble.

Q: What if I'm not placed in the orchestra I auditioned for?

A: Competition varies greatly from year to year, and there are a limited number of positions available in any given orchestra. If you are not placed in the desired orchestra, we encourage you to keep working hard and audition again next year. Once a student has been accepted into an orchestra, it is not necessary to re-audition for that orchestra. An additional audition is required only if applying to a different ensemble.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS

Q: My child has been accepted into the Hochstein Orchestral Program—now what?

A: Your child will receive a letter of acceptance along with pertinent information. You will be asked to respond by a specified date and submit a \$20 registration fee in order to reserve your child's seat in the orchestra.

Q: When are tuition payments due?

A: Tuition can be paid in quarterly installments or fewer, depending upon you. Arrangements can also be made through the Business Office to automatically charge your credit card.

Tuition assistance is available for those who qualify. For more information, please call 585.454.4596.

THE HOCHSTEIN SCHOOL • 50 N. PLYMOUTH AVE. • ROCHESTER, NY 14614 • HOCHSTEIN.org • 585.454.4596