

Summer Music Festival

Placement Audition Guidelines

Why do students have to audition for Summer Music Festival?

SMF has musical offerings for students in elementary school through college. The purpose of the audition is to ensure students are placed in an appropriate ensemble that will both challenge and support them, while maximizing their individual development.

What factors go into a student's ensemble placement?

Many factors are considered when determining a student's ensemble placement. The most important is the individual student and ensuring they have a positive experience. Other factors include the needs of the student, their technical ability, musical and social maturity, the needs of the repertoire, and the needs of the ensemble. Students in grades 7-college may be placed in either the Summer Wind Ensemble or Festival Wind Ensemble.

When are SMF Auditions?

Online Auditions: Students are strongly encouraged to submit an online video audition. Videos may be submitted online at summer.sscmusic.org/smf. **Important information about how to create/upload an audition video is available at summer.sscmusic.org/smf.** All videos must be submitted by **June 15**.

In-person Auditions: If technology is a concern, please contact us at smf@sscmusic.org to explore the possibility of an in-person audition at SSC. All auditions must be completed by **June 15**.

What should students prepare for their audition?

Auditions are approximately 10 minutes in length and consist of scales and a prepared solo. The information below should serve as a guideline, not a requirement. Students should always consult their music teacher and/or private lesson teacher for ability and age appropriate repertoire.

Students currently in grades 4–6 (Band Explorers)

No placement audition is required

Students currently in grades 7–9 (students will be placed in SWE or FWE)

Perform two majors scales of your choice

A chromatic scale through the range of the instrument, ascending and descending

A solo comparable in difficulty to junior SEMMEA/SEMSBA audition repertoire

Students currently in grades 10–college (students will be placed in SWE or FWE)

Perform 2 major scales of your choice

Perform 2 minor scales of your choice

A chromatic scale through the range of the instrument, ascending and descending

A solo comparable in difficulty to senior SEMMEA or All-State audition repertoire

Jazz and Afternoon Chamber Music Auditions

No additional audition is required for Afternoon Chamber Music or Lab Jazz ensemble. If you wish to be considered for the advanced jazz ensemble, Festival Jazz, please prepare the following:

Performance of the melody and improvised solo over a standard of your choice, in *swing*, *bossa*, *Afro-Cuban*, or *samba* styles. Performances may be unaccompanied or with an accompaniment track from the Aebersold series. Pianists, guitarists, and bassists should demonstrate comping or walking in the styles listed above. Percussionists should demonstrate the styles listed above, fills, and improvisation.

Important: when selecting repertoire for your audition, always consult your school music teacher or private lesson teacher. If you would like additional guidance, or need assistance with the audition process, please contact smf@sscmusic.org