

Minimum Playing Requirements

*Please check back for updates on minimum playing requirements for bassoons

Violin

CWO first violin section suggested abilities:

- 1st violins should be able to play 3-octave scales
- High notes (7th position or above on the E string)
- Fast/tricky passage
- Key signature with 3 or more sharps or flats
- Accurate metronome marking

Sight reading skills should be considered and if a potential violinist doesn't feel comfortable with the 1st violin passages/description, they can play 2nd

Recent excerpts examples:

- Beethoven Symphony No. 6, III "Allegro", measure 1-16
MM: dotted half note = 108
- Beethoven Symphony No. 6, IV "Allegro", E-F
MM: half note = 80
- Prokofiev Suite from Lieutenant Kijé, II "Andante", 2 measures before box 22 to end of movement
MM: quarter note = 72
- Prokofiev Suite from Lieutenant Kijé, V "Andante assai", 1 measure before box 58 to box 59
MM: half note = 60

Potential members should be able to sight read all excerpts (including articulation and dynamics) at a slow tempo, and be able to play up to tempo with some practice.

Note that for the Beethoven, metronome markings are as printed in the score, but for the Prokofiev, They are based on recent performance tempos.

Violin II

CWO second violin section suggested abilities:

- Ability to play in positions 1-5, major and minor keys
- Ability to perform regular and extended techniques such as harmonics, pizzicato, col legno

- Ability to perform works such as the following after 10 full rehearsals and individual practice:
 - Debussy, Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun:
 - Holst, [The Planets](#)
 - Mozart, [Symphony No. 25 in G minor](#)

Viola

CWO viola section suggested abilities:

- Selected repertoire, previously the Telemann Viola concerto.
- Ability to play or two 3 octave scales.
- Ability to use vibrato.
- Ability to play in third position and occasionally 5th position.

Cello

CWO suggested cello section abilities:

- Comfort with and ability to play all positions, with the exception of thumb position.
- Familiarity with tenor clef.
- Comfort with: double stops, chords, phrase shaping, vibrato, ensemble playing, varied bow strokes and control of dynamics.

Our current section would best be described as ranging from an advanced beginner to advanced intermediate level. All are able to sight read, and match the abilities listed above, with varying levels from there. Some recent pieces we have performed include: Holst's Jupiter, Bernstein's Overture to Candide, Debussy's Petite Suite, Ravel's Bolero, and Marquez's Danzon No 2.

Bass

CWO bass section suggested abilities:

Potential members should have mastered all basic and intermediate playing techniques and principles, and should be demonstrating them in their playing at all times. This should include:

- Ability to play with excellent tone quality
- Ability to play with good intonation
- Rhythmic precision,
- Ability to acknowledge varying dynamics
- Ability to execute basic bowing techniques and vibrato in order to satisfy the expressive needs of the music.
- Knowledge of all major scales and key signatures is important, as well as upper playing positions.
- The ability to follow a conductor

Oboe

CWO oboe section suggested abilities:

- Ability to perform scales in all major keys with arpeggios. The scales should be tongued ascending and slurred descending.
- Ability to perform the following Excerpts with appropriate style, character, and musicianship with solid intonation, appropriate tempo and clean technique
- Excerpts:
 - Beethoven: Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 2 mm 8-47
 - Brahms: Violin Concerto, Mvt. 2 opening solo
 - Ravel: Le Tombeau de Couperin, Mvt. 1 beg – 2 ; 8 – 9
 - Rossini: La Scala di Seta Overture, mm 5-53 (slow and fast solos)
 - Stravinsky: Pulcinella Suite, Mvt. 2 Serenata & Mvt. 6 Gavotte and 1st variation

Clarinet

CWO clarinet section suggested abilities:

- Ability to play basic scale including scales that have up to 3 sharps/flats.
C, F, Bb, Scales listed here in the pitch for the Bb soprano clarinet (the "standard" clarinet) e.g. Not the small Eb clarinet or the big Bass Clar.
- Ability to play excerpts from a standard method book eg. Klose, or Baermann
- Advanced skill level includes:
 - Ability to play All the scales
 - Excellent sight-reading abilities
- Excerpts from Standard repertoire Should include Mozart – Clarinet Concerto, 1st movement, beginning of solo through m. 154.
Beethoven – Symphony No. 8, 3rd movement, Trio (mm. 48-78).

Bassoon

CWO bassoon section suggested abilities: Coming soon

Percussion

CWO percussion section suggested abilities:

- Players should have the ability keep time and read rhythms on a staff.
- Players who wish to participate in playing timpani, snare or mallets; should be able to read music, keep time, follow direction (from conductor); and also have at least intermediate abilities on those instruments although some tutoring may be possible.
- Knowledge of sticking is helpful for the mallet or stick instruments is helpful

Reference for All Instruments:

You might want to take a look at Music Teachers National Association web-site. They have a page listing standard repertoire.

- Website [HERE](#)