



**Duke Ellington School of the Arts**  
**SY26-27 Audition Procedures – Instrumental Music**

**GUIDELINES**

**All students must complete an audition in-person.**

We are auditioning for the following instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, Acoustic Bass, Guitar, Piano, Harp, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion

All auditions are closed to parents/guardians, family members or peers. If you leave for non-emergencies during your audition, you may be disqualified from completing the admissions process.

If you have any questions, conflicts, and/or health concerns, please contact the Admissions Office at [admissions@ellingtonarts.org](mailto:admissions@ellingtonarts.org) for further assistance.

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**What We Are Looking For**

We are primarily evaluating your potential and passion for your instrument, your musicality, and your willingness to work hard to move to the next level.

**What to Have/How to Prepare**

For their audition, all auditioners must:

1. Prepare major scales and one musical selection for the audition and have sheet music for the selection, be sure to bring a copy of the sheet to your audition.
2. There will be a written music theory assessment.
  - a. Please bring a pencil.
3. Make sure to have their own musical instrument, except for piano.
  - a. Drummers should only bring their own drumsticks

**NOTE: We cannot provide an audition instrument for auditioners. If you do not have an instrument to audition with, please contact [admissions@ellingtonarts.org](mailto:admissions@ellingtonarts.org) to discuss other arrangements.**

**The Audition Process Itself**

All auditioners in instrumental music will be required to:

- Perform a prepared musical selection
- Perform a sampling of major scales
- Take a music theory assessment
- Be tested on musical response and sight-reading



- Participate in a personal interview.
- Accompaniment not required.

**In addition to the procedures above, percussion auditioners must present at least one of the following:**

- A variety of snare drum rudiments from the [Percussive Arts Society \(PAS\) List of International Drum Rudiments](#)
- Any technical/musical skills on mallet percussion or timpani, drum set styles such as Jazz, Latin, Funk, Rock and/or soloing.

**Have a Successful Audition**

1. Practice! Truly prepare your musical selection.
2. Arrive promptly to your audition with all required materials.
3. Present yourself well – speak confidently and clearly.
4. Be prepared to talk about yourself – your musical background and your goals for the future.

Please note 504 and IEP accommodation is available. Please contact [admissions@ellingtonarts.org](mailto:admissions@ellingtonarts.org) with any requests, questions or concerns.