

# College Audition Repertoire Suggestions

*Bonus Material #2*

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# Bonus #2: College Audition Repertoire Suggestions by Instrument

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Part of The Music Scholarship Success Guide Package

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## How to Use This Guide

This guide provides **standard repertoire suggestions** for college music auditions across major instruments. These are pieces that:

1. ✓ Demonstrate technical proficiency
  2. ✓ Showcase musicality and expression
  3. ✓ Are recognized by audition panels nationwide
  4. ✓ Represent different style periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary)
- Important:** Always check specific audition requirements for each school. Requirements vary by institution.
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## General Audition Guidelines (All Instruments)

### Typical Requirements:

**Most college auditions require:**

5. 2-4 contrasting pieces (different styles/periods)
6. Scales and technical exercises

7. Sight-reading
8. Optional: Orchestral excerpts (for competitive programs)

## What "Contrasting" Means:

1. **Style Period:** Baroque vs. Romantic vs. Contemporary
2. **Tempo:** Fast technical work vs. slow lyrical movement
3. **Character:** Dramatic vs. delicate, bold vs. introspective

## Performance Time:

1. Prepare 15-20 minutes of music
  2. Panels typically hear 5-10 minutes (they'll stop you when ready)
  3. Know your pieces well enough to start from any movement/section
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# VIOLIN

## Beginner/Intermediate Level (Music Ed programs, smaller colleges)

### Technical Work:

1. 3-octave scales (all major and minor keys)
2. Wohlfahrt Etudes
3. Kayser Etudes, Op. 20

### Repertoire:

1. Vivaldi: Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 3 No. 6
2. Bach: Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041
3. Seitz: Student Concertos No. 2 or 5
4. Accolay: Violin Concerto in A minor

## Advanced Level (Conservatory, performance majors)

### Technical Work:

1. 3-octave scales with arpeggios
2. Kreutzer Etudes
3. Dont or Rode Etudes

**Repertoire (choose 2-3 contrasting): Baroque:**

1. Bach: Unaccompanied Sonatas and Partitas (any movement)
2. Bach: Concerto in E major or A minor

**Classical:**

1. Mozart: Violin Concerto No. 3, 4, or 5
2. Haydn: Violin Concerto in G major

**Romantic:**

1. Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor
2. Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor
3. Saint-Saëns: Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso
4. Lalo: Symphonie Espagnole

**20th Century:**

1. Barber: Violin Concerto
2. Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No. 1 or 2

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# VIOLA

## Intermediate Level

**Technical Work:**

1. 3-octave scales
2. Kreutzer Etudes (transcribed for viola)

**Repertoire:**

1. Telemann: Viola Concerto in G major
2. Hoffmeister: Viola Concerto in D major

3. Hummel: Fantasy for Viola

## Advanced Level

### Technical Work:

1. 3-octave scales with arpeggios
2. Campagnoli Etudes

### Repertoire (choose 2-3):

1. Bach: Cello Suite (transcribed for viola) - any movement
  2. Stamitz: Viola Concerto in D major
  3. Walton: Viola Concerto
  4. Hindemith: Viola Sonata Op. 11 No. 4
  5. Bloch: Suite for Viola
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## CELLO

### Intermediate Level

#### Technical Work:

1. 3-octave scales
2. Dotzauer Etudes

#### Repertoire:

1. Bach: Cello Suite No. 1 in G major (Prelude and one other movement)
2. Vivaldi: Cello Concerto in E minor
3. Brevval: Cello Sonata in G major

### Advanced Level

#### Technical Work:

1. 4-octave scales with arpeggios
2. Popper or Piatti Etudes

### **Repertoire (choose 2-3): Baroque:**

1. Bach: Unaccompanied Cello Suites (Nos. 2-6, multiple movements)

### **Classical:**

1. Haydn: Cello Concerto in C major or D major
2. Boccherini: Cello Concerto in B-flat major

### **Romantic:**

1. Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto No. 1
2. Lalo: Cello Concerto
3. Elgar: Cello Concerto

### **20th Century:**

1. Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1
  2. Kabalevsky: Cello Concerto No. 1
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## **PIANO**

### **Intermediate Level**

#### **Technical Work:**

1. All major and minor scales (4 octaves)
2. Hanon or Czerny exercises

#### **Repertoire (choose 3 contrasting pieces): Baroque:**

1. Bach: Two-Part Invention or Three-Part Sinfonia
2. Bach: French Suite (any movement)

#### **Classical:**

1. Mozart: Piano Sonata (any, K. 279-576)
2. Beethoven: Sonatina or early Sonata

#### **Romantic:**

1. Chopin: Waltz, Nocturne, or Mazurka

2. Mendelssohn: Songs Without Words
3. Grieg: Lyric Pieces

### **Contemporary:**

1. Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances
2. Debussy: Preludes or Arabesques

## **Advanced Level**

### **Technical Work:**

1. All scales (4 octaves, parallel and contrary motion)
2. Arpeggios and broken chords

### **Repertoire (choose 3-4 contrasting pieces): Baroque:**

1. Bach: Well-Tempered Clavier (Prelude and Fugue)
2. Bach: Partita (any movement)

### **Classical:**

1. Beethoven: Piano Sonata (Op. 2, 10, 13, 14, or later)
2. Mozart: Piano Sonata (more advanced ones)
3. Haydn: Piano Sonata

### **Romantic:**

1. Chopin: Ballade, Scherzo, Etude, or Polonaise
2. Brahms: Intermezzo or Rhapsody
3. Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody or Transcendental Etude
4. Schumann: Carnaval or Kreisleriana

### **20th Century:**

1. Debussy: Preludes or Images
  2. Rachmaninoff: Prelude or Etude-Tableau
  3. Prokofiev: Sonata or Toccata
  4. Ravel: Sonatine or Gaspard de la nuit
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# FLUTE

## Intermediate Level

### Technical Work:

1. Full range scales and arpeggios
2. Andersen or Köhler Etudes

### Repertoire:

1. Bach: Sonata in E-flat major
2. Mozart: Flute Concerto in G major (K. 313)
3. Handel: Sonatas
4. Gaubert: Nocturne et Allegro Scherzando

## Advanced Level

### Technical Work:

1. All scales (full range, varied articulations)
2. Moyse Etudes

### Repertoire (choose 2-3):

1. Bach: Sonata in B minor or A major
  2. Mozart: Flute Concerto in D major (K. 314)
  3. Poulenc: Flute Sonata
  4. Jolivet: Chant de Linos
  5. Ibert: Flute Concerto
  6. Reinecke: Flute Concerto
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# CLARINET

## Intermediate Level

### Technical Work:

1. All major and minor scales (full range)
2. Rose Etudes (32 Etudes)

### Repertoire:

1. Mozart: Clarinet Concerto in A major (any movement)
2. Weber: Concertino for Clarinet
3. Stamitz: Clarinet Concerto

## Advanced Level

### Technical Work:

1. All scales with arpeggios
2. Rose Etudes (40 Studies)

### Repertoire (choose 2-3):

1. Mozart: Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622
  2. Weber: Clarinet Concerto No. 1 or 2
  3. Brahms: Clarinet Sonata Op. 120
  4. Saint-Saëns: Clarinet Sonata
  5. Debussy: Première Rhapsodie
  6. Poulenc: Clarinet Sonata
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# OBOE

## Intermediate/Advanced Level

### Technical Work:

1. All scales (2-3 octaves)
2. Ferling Etudes

**Repertoire (choose 2-3):**

1. Bach: Oboe Concerto in F major
  2. Mozart: Oboe Concerto in C major, K. 314
  3. Handel: Oboe Concerto in G minor
  4. Schumann: Three Romances, Op. 94
  5. Hindemith: Oboe Sonata
  6. Poulenc: Oboe Sonata
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## **BASSOON**

### **Intermediate/Advanced Level**

**Technical Work:**

1. All scales (full range)
2. Weissenborn or Milde Etudes

**Repertoire (choose 2-3):**

1. Mozart: Bassoon Concerto in B-flat major, K. 191
  2. Weber: Bassoon Concerto in F major
  3. Saint-Saëns: Bassoon Sonata
  4. Hindemith: Bassoon Sonata
  5. Vivaldi: Bassoon Concerto in E minor
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## **SAXOPHONE**

### **Intermediate Level**

**Technical Work:**

1. All major and minor scales
2. Klosé or Ferling Etudes

**Repertoire:**

1. Creston: Sonata for Alto Saxophone
2. Heiden: Sonata for Alto Saxophone
3. Ibert: Concertino da Camera

## Advanced Level

**Technical Work:**

1. Full range scales with arpeggios
2. Ferling or Berbiguier Etudes

**Repertoire (choose 2-3):**

1. Glazunov: Concerto for Alto Saxophone
  2. Ibert: Concertino da Camera
  3. Creston: Sonata
  4. Milhaud: Scaramouche
  5. Desenclos: Prélude, Cadence et Finale
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# TRUMPET

## Intermediate Level

**Technical Work:**

1. All major and minor scales (2 octaves)
2. Arban's Method exercises

**Repertoire:**

1. Haydn: Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major
2. Hummel: Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major (2nd or 3rd movement)
3. Clarke: Trumpet Voluntary

## Advanced Level

### Technical Work:

1. All scales (full range, varied articulations)
2. Arban's or Clarke Etudes

### Repertoire (choose 2-3):

1. Haydn: Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major (complete)
  2. Hummel: Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major (complete)
  3. Hindemith: Trumpet Sonata
  4. Kennan: Sonata for Trumpet
  5. Arutiunian: Trumpet Concerto
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## FRENCH HORN

### Intermediate Level

#### Technical Work:

1. All scales (2 octaves)
2. Kopprasch Etudes (Book 1)

#### Repertoire:

1. Mozart: Horn Concerto No. 2 or 3
2. Saint-Saëns: Morceau de Concert

### Advanced Level

#### Technical Work:

1. All scales (full range)
2. Kopprasch Etudes (Book 2) or Maxime-Alphonse

#### Repertoire (choose 2-3):

1. Mozart: Horn Concerto No. 3 or 4 (complete)

2. Strauss: Horn Concerto No. 1
  3. Hindemith: Horn Sonata
  4. Dukas: Villanelle
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# TROMBONE

## Intermediate Level

### Technical Work:

1. All major scales (2 octaves)
2. Bordogni or Rochut Etudes

### Repertoire:

1. Marcello: Sonata in F major (or other Baroque sonatas)
2. Guilmant: Morceau Symphonique
3. David: Concertino

## Advanced Level

### Technical Work:

1. All scales (full range)
2. Rochut or Tyrell Etudes

### Repertoire (choose 2-3):

1. Hindemith: Trombone Sonata
  2. Grondahl: Trombone Concerto
  3. Rimsky-Korsakov: Trombone Concerto
  4. Martin: Ballade for Trombone
  5. Guilmant: Morceau Symphonique
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# TUBA/EUPHONIUM

## Intermediate/Advanced Level

### Technical Work:

1. All major scales (full range)
2. Bordogni or Rochut Etudes (adapted)

### Tuba Repertoire (choose 2-3):

1. Vaughan Williams: Tuba Concerto
2. Hindemith: Tuba Sonata
3. Gregson: Tuba Concerto
4. Lebedev: Concerto in One Movement

### Euphonium Repertoire:

1. Cosma: Euphonium Concerto
  2. Horovitz: Euphonium Concerto
  3. Sparke: Pantomime
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# PERCUSSION

## Intermediate/Advanced Level

### Snare Drum:

1. Demonstrate rolls, rudiments, and musical etudes
2. Suggested: Cirone Etudes, Wilcoxon Etudes

### Marimba/Xylophone:

1. 4-mallet technique demonstration
2. Suggested repertoire:
  - Creston: Concertino for Marimba
  - Musser: Etude in C major

- Bach: Cello Suite (transcribed for marimba)

### **Timpani:**

1. Demonstrate tuning and technique
2. Suggested: Goodman Etudes

### **Multi-Percussion:**

1. Contemporary multi-percussion piece
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## **VOICE**

### **Soprano**

#### **Art Songs (choose 2-3 in different languages):**

1. English: Quilter, Barber, Copland
2. Italian: Handel, Vivaldi, Caccini
3. German: Schubert, Schumann, Brahms
4. French: Fauré, Debussy, Poulenc

#### **Arias (optional for advanced):**

1. Mozart: "Ach ich fühl's" (Die Zauberflöte)
2. Puccini: "O mio babbino caro" (Gianni Schicchi)
3. Handel: Arias from oratorios

### **Mezzo-Soprano/Alto**

#### **Art Songs:**

1. English: Vaughan Williams, Britten
2. Italian: Baroque arias
3. German: Brahms, Schumann
4. French: Fauré, Ravel

#### **Arias:**

1. Bizet: Habanera (Carmen)

2. Handel: "Ombra mai fu"
3. Vivaldi: Alto arias

## Tenor

### Art Songs:

1. English: Britten, Finzi
2. Italian: Bellini, Donizetti
3. German: Schubert, Schumann
4. French: Fauré, Debussy

### Arias:

1. Mozart: Tenor arias from operas
2. Puccini: "Che gelida manina" (La bohème)
3. Handel: Tenor arias

## Baritone/Bass

### Art Songs:

1. English: Vaughan Williams
2. Italian: Bellini
3. German: Brahms, Schubert
4. French: Fauré, Duparc

### Arias:

1. Mozart: "Madamina, il catalogo è questo" (Don Giovanni)
  2. Handel: Bass arias
  3. Vaughan Williams: "Songs of Travel"
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# Audition Preparation Timeline

## 12-18 Months Before Auditions:

1. Choose your primary pieces
2. Begin serious study and memorization

## 6-12 Months Before:

1. Refine technical aspects
2. Perform pieces in lessons, masterclasses, recitals
3. Record yourself regularly

## 3-6 Months Before:

1. Finalize repertoire choices
2. Polish musical interpretation
3. Practice performing under pressure

## 1-3 Months Before:

1. Memorize completely (if required)
2. Mock auditions with teacher and peers
3. Prepare mentally and physically

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# Repertoire Selection Strategy

## DO:

1. **Choose pieces you can perform confidently** (80% mastery minimum)
2. **Show contrast** in style, tempo, and character
3. **Highlight your strengths** (beautiful tone, technical facility, musicality)
4. **Check school-specific requirements** (some schools list required pieces)
5. **Have backup pieces ready** in case panel asks for alternatives

## ✗ DON'T:

1. **Choose pieces that are too difficult** (showing struggle hurts more than choosing "easier" pieces played beautifully)
  2. **Perform pieces you just learned** (you need time to truly own the music)
  3. **Select all pieces from the same period** (show versatility)
  4. **Ignore weaknesses** (if your high notes are weak, don't choose repertoire that exposes this)
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## Final Tips

1. **Musicianship matters more than difficulty** - A Mozart concerto played beautifully beats a difficult contemporary work played shakily
  1. **Memorization** - Most schools require or prefer memorization (check requirements). If optional, memorizing shows dedication.
  1. **Recordings** - Record yourself weekly. You'll hear things your ears miss in real-time.
  1. **Mock auditions** - Practice performing your repertoire start-to-finish in front of others
  1. **Consult your teacher** - Your private teacher knows your strengths and weaknesses best
  1. **Research the school** - Some programs have specific repertoire preferences or requirements
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**Remember:** The goal is to show the audition panel your musical potential, technical ability, and artistic maturity. Choose repertoire that allows you to shine!

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