

2025-2026 George Steinbrenner Orchestra Chamber & Leadership Auditions

Congratulations on your interest in joining the top string ensemble at Steinbrenner High School, one of the leading string ensembles in the State of Florida.

Students auditioning for the Steinbrenner Chamber Ensemble understand that they are representing the Steinbrenner High School Orchestras at the highest level. As such, they will be expected to practice and perform at the highest standards. Being part of this prestigious ensemble also comes with additional responsibilities. Chamber members are part of the Hillsborough County Honors Credit, which entails mandatory participation in the following:

- **Solo and Ensemble**
- **MPA (Music Performance Assessment)**
- **Chamber Camp**
- **Summer Camp**
- **Auditioning for All County**
- **State MPA**
- **Weekly Wednesday Afterschool Rehearsals**
- **Additional Performances** (i.e., the musical, full orchestra, solo performances for chorus, band, honors ceremonies, district events, and superintendent requests)

In addition to these commitments, students in the Chamber Ensemble are strongly encouraged to audition for All State. Chamber members must also be available for elite performances, which may occur off-campus. Parents will be responsible for transportation to these events.

Chamber members are expected to mentor younger members of the George Steinbrenner Orchestra, as well as students in the Martinez and Walker Middle School Orchestras. Chamber members will also need to pursue additional private instruction outside the classroom at least 3-4 times a month, as regular instruction is essential to manage the advanced level of this ensemble.

Service Hours for Bright Futures can be earned by tutoring younger orchestra members or performing for nursing homes. Students are required to fill out the appropriate paperwork to receive credit for these activities.

In addition, all Chamber members must be enrolled in the Chamber Orchestra class and attend all afterschool rehearsals. (It is possible to be enrolled in two orchestra classes, but students must contact their guidance counselor to make this arrangement.)

Audition Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025, from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- **Location:** Steinbrenner High School, Room 405 (Warm-up space will be down the hall)
- **Results:** Posted by May 5, 2025. Middle School students will be notified via their orchestra directors and email, and results will also be posted on the Steinbrenner Orchestra Website.
- **Sign-up for Auditions:** Please sign up for a time slot at the following link: **(Link will close April 5th)** <https://forms.gle/ay3RKWw1uJGLtrPb8>

Before the Audition: Students must prepare and submit the following 2-octave scales and arpeggios in this order: F, A, Bb, Eb, Dm, C, D, G, E. The tempo should be quarter note = 80.

- Submit your recordings via an unpublished YouTube link to Mrs. Szarowicz's email by **Friday, April 5, 2025:** andrea.szarowicz@hcps.net.

On the Day of the Audition:

1. Dress professionally and arrive on time.
2. All scales must be memorized.
3. You will be asked to perform one of the 3-octave scales and arpeggios (G, C, or D).
4. You will also be asked to play one of the 2-octave scales and arpeggios from the list above.
5. You will be asked to perform your prepared excerpt.
6. You will be asked to sight-read 8 measures of music.
7. Finally, you will be asked questions related to leadership, chamber music, or both.

Audition Requirements:

Part 1: Scales and Arpeggios

- **Three-Octave Scale:** Pick one three-octave scale of your choice. Perform quarter notes ascending and descending.
- **Two-Octave Scale with Arpeggio:** Pick one two-octave scale with arpeggio of your choice.
(Note: You will be expected to know all scales for Chamber Summer Camp in August.)

Metronome Speed: Quarter note = 80 (This means there are four notes/pitches for each beat.)

Example:

- **Bass players** should prepare two 2-octave scales.

Part 2: Judge's Selection of Scales and Arpeggios

- You will be asked to play one 2-octave scale and arpeggio selected by the judges.
- The possible scales include: F, A, Bb, Eb, Dm, C, D, G, E. These are the same scales you must send to Mrs. Szarowicz by **April 12, 2025** via an unpublished YouTube link to **andrea.szarowicz@hcps.net**.

Part 3: Excerpt Performance

- **Violin:** Elgar – *Introduction and Allegro*, A Far Cry
- **Viola:** Elgar – *Introduction and Allegro*, A Far Cry
- **Cello:** Elgar – *Introduction and Allegro*, A Far Cry
- **Bass:** Elgar – *Introduction and Allegro*, A Far Cry

Part 4: Leadership and Personal Reflection Portion (Leadership candidates will be asked additional questions, these are just some examples.)

- Why do you want to be a member of the Steinbrenner Chamber Ensemble?
- What is your best attribute that you can bring to the ensemble?
- What is your biggest weakness, and how do you plan on working on it?

Part 5: Sight Reading

- You will be asked to sight-read 8 measures of music.

Part 6: 2 Current teacher recommendations

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. You can contact me via email at **andrea.szarowicz@hcps.net**. I look forward to hearing from all applicants and receiving feedback from the instrumental committees once we are down to our finalists.

Musically Yours,
Andrea Szarowicz
Director of Orchestras, Guitar, and AICE Theory
George Steinbrenner High School