

Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12 Audition Requirements by Art Form

On your audition day, you can expect a panel of at least three CAPA faculty members to listen to your instrumental audition. We look forward to meeting you and hearing you play, so relax and do your very best.

- Students may audition on ONE instrument only.
- Students should bring their own instrument with them to the audition.
- Percussionists must bring their own mallets and sticks, however, the percussion instruments on which they will audition will be provided.
- Students will first be asked to play TWO scales of their choice.
- Students will then be asked to play TWO pieces of music of two contrasting styles. (Examples: 1 slow piece and 1 fast piece or 1 classical piece and 1 jazz piece). Both pieces should be no longer than 5 minutes total. These two pieces are to be chosen by the student and properly prepared well before the audition day.
- Students will then be asked to sight-read a line of music.
- The instrumental faculty will be listening for strengths in the following areas of the student's playing audition:
 - **Tone** - (A musician's quality of sound)
 - **Intonation** - (The pitch accuracy when playing from note to note. Is the musician staying "in tune?")
 - **Rhythm** - (Patterns of sound verses silence. Is each note or rest being held out to its proper length/value?)
 - **Technique** - (The ability of a musician to exert control of their instrument to produce the precise musical effect they desire)
 - **Interpretation** - (How a musician translates a piece of music's meaning, imagery and emotions into sound)
- Following their playing audition, students will then be interviewed by the instrumental faculty. One of the questions all students will be asked is "Why are you interested in becoming a new member of the CAPA 6-12 instrumental department?"
- Students will also be asked if they have any prior experience playing other instruments and if they would be interested in playing those instruments in their playing ensembles if needed.

Scoring:

Scoring will be on a 1-4-point basis in categories: Scales, Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique, Interpretation and Sight-reading.

Length of Audition:

The average audition will last 15–20 minutes.