

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Principal Percussion Audition
January-February 2026

GENERAL AUDITION INFORMATION

Please read all of this information carefully and retain for your future reference. All questions regarding the audition and this information must be directed to the Orchestra Personnel Office only. We request that you do not contact members of the audition committee. The preferred method of contact is by email to auditions@pittsburghsymphony.org.

To apply for this audition, please **submit the online application form** on the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's (PSO) website at www.pittsburghsymphony.org/auditions on or before the **deadline of Monday, November 10, 2025**. All rounds of this audition will take place at Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. The Preliminary round of auditions is scheduled for January 12, 13, 19 & 20, 2026. The preliminary round of the audition is screened. **Please await confirmation of your audition before making travel plans.** Additional logistical details about the audition, including what instruments will be provided and what you may bring on your own, will be included with audition invitations.

The Semi-Final round of auditions is scheduled for February 16, 2026. The Semi-Final round of auditions is also screened. The Final round is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 17. If any candidates join the audition for the Final round, the round will be divided into two segments; the first segment will be screened, and the screen will be removed for the second segment. The screen will be removed for the Final round if there are no new candidates.

Note we will be able to reimburse up to \$300 of travel (not lodging) for any candidate required to come to Pittsburgh for two (2) trips, i.e. anyone advancing from prelims into semi-finals; reimbursement is not provided to anyone advanced directly to semi-finals or finals.

Deposits will not be required for this audition, but we kindly ask you to show courtesy to the audition committee by letting us know at least seven days prior to the audition date if you will not attend. **Candidates must show a photo ID upon check-in at the audition.**

Taped excerpts may be requested at the discretion of the Audition Committee and will be due **Monday, December 8, 2025**. Directions for submitting recordings will be communicated with the request for recording.

POSITION DETAILS

Position to begin by the mutual agreement of the PSO and winning candidate. Pay for the 2026-27 Season is at minimum orchestra weekly scale of \$2,345.15, and the annual Electronic Media Guarantee is \$2,072.40. This position may negotiate for additional weekly overscale (pay) related to the duties of the position. The PSO schedule has ten (10) collective vacation weeks for members each season, paid at the same rate as work weeks.

Any offer of full-time employment is contingent upon the successful completion of all background checks, as required by the Pittsburgh Symphony, Inc.

Musicians hired by the PSO are responsible for having and maintaining authorization to be employed in the United States of America, and to travel on international tours as a musician with the PSO. The PSO will act as sponsor for visa petitions for musicians who are offered or have positions as members of the orchestra, however it is the musician's responsibility to bear the costs associated with the petition and meet all required deadlines.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is proud to be a partner orchestra of the National Alliance for Audition Support (NAAS). You may qualify for financial assistance from NAAS for this audition. More information can be found [here](#).

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PRINCIPAL PERCUSSION AUDITION
January-February 2026

I) SOLO REPERTOIRE (2 required)

1. Marimba

BACH

Four mallet solo of choice (approximately 3-5 minutes)

AND

2. Snare Drum

DELECLUSE

TWELVE STUDIES for the Drum

- No. 11

II) ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS

1. Snare Drum

BARTÓK

Concerto for Orchestra

- Movement II: *Gioco Delle Coppie*

NIELSEN

Clarinet Concerto

PROKOFIEV

Romeo and Juliet, Suite No. 1

- Masks
- The Death of Tybalt

PROKOFIEV

Lieutenant Kijé Suite

- Movement I: *The Birth of Kijé*

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

Capriccio Espagnol

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

Scheherazade

ROSSINI

Overture to La Gazza Ladra

SCHUMAN

On Freedom's Ground

SHOSTAKOVICH

Symphony No. 10

SHOSTAKOVICH

Symphony No. 11

VON SUPPÉ

Overture to Pique Dame

2. Xylophone

BARTÓK

Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta

BERG

Wozzeck

- Act II, Sc. 4: m. 716 – m. 723

COPLAND

Appalachian Spring Suite for full orchestra

GERSHWIN

An American in Paris

GERSHWIN

Porgy and Bess: A Symphonic Picture

- 3 m. after [13] to [15]

KODÁLY

Háry János Suite

- Movement VI

MESSIAEN

Oiseaux Exotiques

SCHUMAN

Symphony No. 3

- Part II: m. 230 – m. 244

SHOSTAKOVICH

The Bolt

SHOSTAKOVICH

Symphony No. 15

- Movement I
- Movement IV

STRAVINSKY

The Firebird Complete Ballet

- [46] - [48]
- [127] - end

WILLIAMS

The Cowboys Overture

CONTINUED



PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

3. Glockenspiel

DEBUSSY

La Mer

- Movement II: *Jeux de vagues*
- Movement III: *Dialogue du vent et de la mer*

DUKAS

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

MOZART

The Magic Flute

- Act I, No. 8: *Finale*

RESPIGHI

Roman Festivals (Transpose as necessary)

RESPIGHI

The Pines of Rome

- Movement I: *I pini di Villa Borghese*

TCHAIKOVSKY

The Sleeping Beauty Suite

- Movement V: *Waltz*

WILLIAMS

Excerpts from Close Encounters of the Third Kind

4. Vibraphone

ADAMS

City Noir

BERNSTEIN

West Side Story: Symphonic Dances

WILLIAMS

Escapades

- Movement III: *Joy Ride*

5. Triangle

BRAHMS

Symphony No. 4

- Movement III

DVORÁK

Slavonic Dance No. 2, Op. 72

LIZST

Piano Concerto No. 1

TCHAIKOVSKY

Overture to The Nutcracker

6. Tambourine

BIZET

Carmen, Suite No. 1

BIZET

Carmen, Suite No. 2

BRITTEN

Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes

CHABRIER

España

DEBUSSY

Ibéria, No. 2 from Images

DVORÁK

Carnival Overture

GRIEG

Peer Gynt, Suite No. 2

- Movement II: *Arabian Dance*

STRAVINSKY

Petrushka (1947) - 3 m. after [201] - [206]

7. Cymbals

DVORÁK

Scherzo Capriccioso

RACHMININOV

Piano Concerto No. 2

- Movement III

SHOSTAKOVICH

Symphony No. 5

SIBELIUS

Finlandia

TCHAIKOVSKY

Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture

TCHAIKOVSKY

Symphony No. 4

- Movement IV

VERDI

Overture to La forza del destino

8. Bass Drum

BRITTEN

The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

MAHLER

Symphony No. 1

MAHLER

Symphony No. 3

STRAVINSKY

Petrushka (1911 and 1947 versions)

STRAVINSKY

Le Sacre du printemps

A complete packet of all excerpts will be made available to audition applicants when invitations are sent.

Sight-reading may be asked in any round of the audition. Repertoire list is subject to change. **The official pitch of the PSO is A=440**