

University of Melbourne Symphonic Ensembles

2026 Auditions: Bass Trombone

Please prepare as instructed. Please note you may not be asked to perform all excerpts.

Need help preparing for your audition? Here are some suggestions:

- *Listen to the pieces in their entirety with full scores (recordings of some of these excerpts are available online). Listen to the orchestras that you've heard of (Berlin, Chicago, New York, Vienna etc). Scores are available in the music library, or through web resources such as:*
 - <http://imslp.org/>
 - <http://archives.nyphil.org/>
- *Do detailed work first – ensure that all tempos, notes, intervals and rhythms are correct.*
- *Once you've got the tempo, notes, intervals, rhythms sorted, record yourself playing ONE phrase of an excerpt. Listen to the professional version, and then listen back to your version. Name something specific that is better about the professional recording. Learn to do that specific thing. Repeat process until they are the same.*
- *Once you have the excerpts suitably prepared, record three of them in a row and then listen. Write down several things that you know need to improve and then spend time working on them.*
- *Take several excerpts (random order) and perform as a pretend audition. Always record these mock auditions. Sometimes play them in front of your parents, or sibling, or even your dog! No comments needed, just an audience.*
- *Repeat every day (after a nice warm-up). Use the recording to decide what basics you'll work on tonight or tomorrow morning before your next mock audition.*

EXCERPT OVERVIEW

**Any rests longer than 2 bars can be observed as a short pause before continuing.*

All Bass Trombones prepare #1 - #7

- 1) **2-octave C major scale.** All crotchets. Breathe as needed. Crotchet = 80

 - 2) **Bordogni #3** first 24 measures, play **down one octave**. Crotchet = 104

 - 3) **Borodin** Prince Igor: No. 17 Polovtsian Dances
 - 9th measure of rehearsal C to rehearsal D

 - 4) **Brahms** Symphony No. 4 (4th movement)
 - Beginning until rehearsal B
 - Rehearsal E to 8 measures before rehearsal F

 - 5) **Stravinsky** Petrushka (1947)
 - Upbeat to Rehearsal 7 to rehearsal 11
 - Rehearsal 223 to 228

 - 6) **Tchaikovsky** Symphony No. 4 (4th movement)
 - 9th measure of rehearsal A to rehearsal B

 - 7) **Schwantner** and the mountains rising nowhere (Trombone 4)
Pick-up to Bar 60 – 64 (bottom line)
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Optional Bass Trombone list

Please prepare the following additional excerpts if you wish to be considered for Bass trombone positions in Wind Symphony and Symphony Orchestra:

- 8) **Bernstein arr. Lavender** Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*
 - Rehearsal 497 – 524
 - Rehearsal 664 – 700

- 9) **Mahler** Symphony No. 5
 - Movement 1:
 - Rehearsal 7 to 8 measures after Rehearsal 8
 - Movement 2:
 - Rehearsal 19 to rehearsal 20
 - Rehearsal 24 to rehearsal 25
 - Movement 3 (scherzo)
 - 16th measure of rehearsal 15 to rehearsal 17
 - Pickup to rehearsal 25 to rehearsal 26

- 10) **Tchaikovsky** Symphony No. 4 (1st movement)
 - Movement 1: 9th measure of rehearsal J to rehearsal K
 - Movement 4: Rehearsal H to end

1. 2-octave C major scale. All crotchets. Breathe as needed. Crotchet = 80
2. Bordogni #3 first 24 measures, play down one octave. Crotchet = 104

Allegretto (♩ = 104)

No. 3

3. Borodin Prince Igor: No. 17 Polovtsian Dances
9th measure of rehearsal C to rehearsal D

Introduzione.
Andantino. 13

A 16 B 15

Allegro vivo. 17

C 8

Tuba Solo.

4. Brahms Symphony No. 4 (4th movement)

Beginning until rehearsal B

Allegro energico e passionato

12

Ob. I

A

28

B

16

Viol. I

C

Rehearsal E to 8 measures before rehearsal F

110

Viol. I

E Solo

pp

espr.

116

ppp

pp

123

p

dim.

pp

rit.

129

f

ff

sf

6

Ob. I

5. Stravinsky Petrushka (1947)

First Part, upbeat to Rehearsal 7 to rehearsal 11

Musical score for the First Part of Stravinsky's Petrushka, measures 6-11. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 2/4. It features a 1st Trumpet part and a Trp. part. The music is marked with dynamics such as *ff* and includes rehearsal marks 6 through 11. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1 and 2. The score shows a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing rests.

Fourth Part - Dance of the Coachman, Rehearsal 223 to 228

Musical score for the Fourth Part of Stravinsky's Petrushka, measures 221-229. The score is written in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a time signature of 2/4. It includes rehearsal marks 221 through 229. The music is marked with dynamics such as *sim.*, *f*, *ff*, and *p*. The score shows a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing rests. The music is characterized by its rhythmic complexity and dynamic contrast.

6. Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4 (4th movement)
9th measure of rehearsal A to rehearsal B

Allegro con fuoco

ff

1

1

9 21 A

ff

1

1

38

ff

43

48

1

55

ff staccatissimo

B 16

7. Schwantner and the mountains rising nowhere (Trombone 4)
Bar 57 - 64 (bottom line)

Handwritten musical score for Trombone 4, bars 57-64. The score is written on a grand staff with four staves. It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (pppp, mf, ff), articulations (acc. sub., deciso, gliss.), and performance instructions (poco, n, open, unis., a2, str. mute, senza vib., pomposo con forza e maestoso). A black arrow points to a circled tempo change to [♩=60] in the first staff. There are also some crossed-out sections in the lower staves.

Optional Bass Trombone list

Please prepare the following additional excerpts if you wish to be considered for Bass trombone positions in Wind Symphony and Symphony Orchestra

8. Bernstein arr. Lavender Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

Rehearsal 497 – 524

The musical score is written for Bass Trombone and consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins at rehearsal mark 496 and ends at 504, featuring a series of eighth notes with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second staff starts at 506 and ends at 512, showing a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to sforzando (*sfz*) accents and a glissando (*gliss.*) over a sixteenth-note run. The third staff covers measures 514 to 520, continuing the sixteenth-note pattern with repeated *sfz* accents. The fourth staff spans from 522 to 524, starting with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic, reaching a fortississimo (*fff*) accent at rehearsal mark 524, and concluding with *sfz* and *ff* dynamics.

8. Bernstein arr. Lavender Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

Rehearsal 664 – 700

659 *ff* 661 2 3 Open

666 670

671 676

677 681

682 *fz*

685 *ff* shake *pp sub.* 690 *ff*

691 *pp sub.* 694 *ff* 3

696 3 3

40010250

9. Mahler Symphony No. 5

Movement 1:

Rehearsal 7 to 8 measures after Rehearsal 8

7 *Plötzlich schneller. Leidenschaftlich. Wild.*

f *mf* *f* *f*

1 1

8 *mf* *f*

Detailed description: This musical score is for the first movement of Mahler's Symphony No. 5. It covers the section from rehearsal 7 to 8 measures after rehearsal 8. The music is written for three staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The tempo and mood are marked 'Plötzlich schneller. Leidenschaftlich. Wild.' (Suddenly faster. Passionately. Wildly). The dynamics range from forte (f) to mezzo-forte (mf). The score includes first endings (marked '1') and a repeat sign at the end of the section.

Movement 2:

Rehearsal 19 to rehearsal 20

1 19 1

sf *sf* *fp* *pp<sf* *pp<sf*

3 *sf* *mf* *p<sf* *sf*

1 20 $\frac{4}{4}$ *etwas langsamer (ohne zu schleppen)* 3

1 *p*

Detailed description: This musical score is for the second movement of Mahler's Symphony No. 5, covering rehearsal 19 to rehearsal 20. The music is written for three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The tempo is marked 'etwas langsamer (ohne zu schleppen)' (slightly slower, without dragging). The dynamics range from fortissimo (sf) to piano (p). The score includes first endings (marked '1') and a repeat sign at the end of the section.

9. Mahler Symphony No. 5

Movement 2:

Rehearsal 24 to rehearsal 25

10 *Gehalterr.* *p* *poco* *p* *cresc.* [24 *Etwas drängend.* *p* *cresc.* - - - -

nicht eilern *molto sf* *p* *f* *p* *f* *Wuchtig.* *f* *sf*

25 *etwas drängend* *unmerklich drängend* 10 1

Detailed description: This musical score excerpt is for the second movement of Mahler's Symphony No. 5, covering rehearsal 24 to rehearsal 25. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a 10-measure rehearsal mark, followed by a 3-measure triplet and a 10-measure phrase marked 'Gehalterr.' with dynamics *p*, *poco*, *p*, and *cresc.*. Rehearsal 24 starts with 'Etwas drängend.' and a *p* dynamic, followed by a *cresc.* marking. The second staff is marked 'nicht eilern' and 'Wuchtig.' with dynamics *molto sf*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *f*, and *sf*. The third staff continues the 'Wuchtig.' section, ending with rehearsal 25 marked 'etwas drängend' and 'unmerklich drängend' with dynamics *sf* and *sf*. A 10-measure phrase and a 1-measure phrase are indicated at the end of the third staff.

Movement 3 (scherzo):

16th measure of rehearsal 15 to rehearsal 17

Nicht schleppen.

f *sf* *f* *ff*

4 16 5 4 *Heftig drängend* *f*

17 *cresc.* 2 *poco rit. a tempo* 1 2 3

Detailed description: This musical score excerpt is for the third movement (scherzo) of Mahler's Symphony No. 5, covering the 16th measure of rehearsal 15 to rehearsal 17. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff is marked 'Nicht schleppen.' and contains dynamics *f*, *sf*, *f*, and *ff*. The second staff has a 4-measure phrase, a 16-measure phrase, and a 5-measure phrase, followed by a 4-measure phrase marked 'Heftig drängend' with a *f* dynamic. The third staff begins with a *cresc.* marking and a 17-measure phrase, followed by rehearsal 17 marked 'poco rit. a tempo' with a 2-measure phrase, and then 1-measure and 2-3-measure phrases.

9. Mahler Symphony No. 5

Movement 3 (scherzo):

Pickup to rehearsal 25 to rehearsal 26

25 *Vorwärts drängend.*

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10. Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4
Movement 4: Rehearsal H to end

1 1 [H *fff*

Fine.

- END -

Excerpts for educational purposes only