

The Audition



Auditions for the Assistant Principal Viola position of the Pringler Festival Orchestra were competitive indeed. Nearly a hundred candidates attempted to display their mastery of *Daphnis et Chloé*, the *Haffner Symphony*, *Ein Heldenleben*, the *Appalachian Spring Suite*, and, of course, *Etude Bruté*. After the preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final, and final rounds, six musicians were tied with identical scores. Too bad, because at that point, the audition committee had no choice but to hand the finalists over to Dr. Meptang, the orchestra's ophthalmological coach, who subjected them to a simple test that measured their tolerance of pain. Regrettably, none of the candidates passed.