

**AUDITION INFORMATION FOR INSTRUMENTAL APPLICANTS – AYO 2025 PROGRAMS**

Congratulations on deciding to audition for the Australian Youth Orchestra’s 2025 programs! This document is designed to guide you through the required steps to ensure that your submission accurately reflects the best of your ability, and that all applications can be assessed in a fair and equitable manner.

**OVERVIEW**

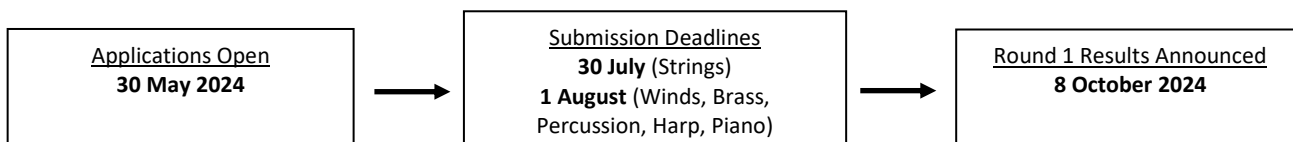
The sequence of events that comprise AYO’s annual audition program, and the selection of applicants to participate in AYO programs is outlined in the following points.

- Orchestral excerpts are selected annually by specialists in each instrument for the AYO auditions.
- All applicants submit a recorded audition, comprising of the required orchestral excerpts, and the performance of an ‘own choice’ work (except timpani & percussion applicants), by the due date.
- Assessors review all auditions and provide individual results/rankings for each audition. Any assessor who is also the teacher of an applicant will not assess their audition.
- Audition results are reviewed and checked for accuracy.
- Individual offers for AYO programs are made to applicants, based on the instruments required for each AYO program. The instruments required for each program is based on the repertoire. On this basis the first round offers are decided. All applicants will be allocated as *Successful*, *Reserve* or *Not Successful* for each program they have applied for.
- Successful applicants must accept each program offer by the advised due date.
- Based on responses to the first round offers, a second round of offers may be made for some instruments.
- Second round offers are only made to applicants who were allocated a reserve result in the first round.
- Further offers may be made if an applicant withdraws prior to the program starting. As with second round offers, further offers are only made to applicants who received a reserve result in the first round.

The assessors are experienced musicians, teachers, and professionals from the music industry. They are skilled in the assessment of instrumental auditions and will accurately assess your performance. The results of your audition are confidential and will not be discussed outside the audition panel, nor will they be made available to any other organisation.

**TIMELINE**

Please note the dates below to ensure you don’t miss your submission deadline:



**PROCESS**

Once you have started an application for AYO’s 2025 programs, there are three stages you need to progress through before the submission deadline, which are detailed over the rest of this document.

- Stage One:** Preparing your audition
- Stage Two:** Recording your audition
- Stage Three:** Online submission

## STAGE ONE – PREPARING YOUR AUDITION

The first stage of the audition process involves identifying the requirements for programs you wish to apply for, then preparing the appropriate materials.

### PIECE OF YOUR OWN CHOICE

All applicants (except percussion and timpani) are required to perform a short piece of their own choice, without an accompanist. Please choose a work, or section of a work, which:

- Clearly demonstrates your technical proficiency
- Emphasises your musicianship
- Presents contrasting musical material
- Is no more than five minutes in length

Applicants are not required to present complete works—a carefully selected passage of a longer piece is acceptable. Applicants are strongly advised to check the selection of their piece with their teacher.

### ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS

The orchestral excerpts are in varying styles and degrees of difficulty and are divided into two Sets. SET A and SET B.

SET A: All applicants are required to prepare the excerpts labelled SET A.

SET B: These excerpts are only required for applicants wishing to be considered for the following programs:

- **Australian Youth Orchestra** (Summer Season & International Tour)
- **AYO Chamber Players**
- **AYO Professional Immersion**

*If you do not wish to be considered for these programs, you are not required to prepare the SET B excerpts.*

To prepare the excerpts to the best of your ability, take time to find out some background about each work. It is important to listen to a recording of the orchestral work from which the excerpt has been taken. Not only will this make it more interesting for you when preparing the excerpt, but it will assist you in understanding the style in which it is usually performed.

Excerpts are very important in the audition process. Whilst they may not seem as interesting as your own choice piece, your performance of the excerpts helps the assessors understand your approach to music-making and assess your knowledge of orchestral repertoire. Look carefully at all the tempo, dynamic and articulation markings, and consider them when you are preparing each excerpt. Any metronome markings are provided only as an indication. Aim for accuracy, beauty of sound, precise rhythm, and good intonation. Don't forget to seek the guidance of your teacher.

The excerpts are of varying difficulty. Please do your best to prepare all the excerpts. Less experienced applicants should not be disheartened by a difficult excerpt—play it slower if necessary. Simply by completing the audition, you will qualify for the opportunity to participate in an AYO program, so start practising and don't be discouraged!

### WIND AUXILIARY INSTRUMENTS

Wind instrument applicants are strongly encouraged to also audition on their respective doubling instruments; piccolo, cor anglais, Eb clarinet, bass clarinet and contrabassoon. Wind auxiliary auditions will need to prepare an additional set of excerpts.

An own choice piece is not required for auxiliary instruments.

## STAGE TWO – RECORDING YOUR AUDITION

Once you have prepared the music, you are required to make audio-visual recordings of your audition. Follow these guidelines carefully to ensure your submission is of an admissible standard and represents your best effort.

For ease of recording and uploading, the following elements are required to be recorded as separate videos.

- VIDEO 1: **Orchestral excerpts** (to be recorded in order; 1, 2, 3, 4...)
- VIDEO 2: **Own choice work** (except Timpani/Percussion)

*...and if you are submitting an audition for an auxiliary woodwind instrument*

- VIDEO 3: **Auxiliary instrument orchestral excerpts** (Eb and bass clarinet should be recorded separately).

### RECORDED AUDITION CHECKLIST

- Select an enclosed room (not a staircase, hallway or outdoors) with good lighting so you are clearly visible in the video. The camera should be set up on a tripod or flat surface (not held in hand).
- Check the audio level. You need to make sure the sound on the video is audible, even when you are playing quietly, and sound does not distort when you are playing loudly. You may need to move the camera/microphone a few times to get this right.
- Check for background noise which may interfere with your recording. You may need to plan a suitable time of day, or location, for making your recording to avoid noise which could distract from your performance.
- Your video recording should be made in landscape view, at a minimum resolution of 720p, in either MP4 or MOV format. Many mobile phones can achieve these technical requirements. If you are unable to access a suitable device, please be in touch with AYO and we will try to assist you.
- You should be clearly visible in shot, where possible from head to toe, with your face unobscured and you should remain in view for the full duration of each video. No other person should be seen or heard at any time. Instrument specific positioning guidelines are listed below.
- Each video must be in one continuous take, with no editing (titles, cuts, cropping, etc...) for the duration of the submitted video. All excerpts within each set must be performed to ensure your application is assessed.
- Applicants can record multiple takes of their audition videos, provided the final submitted video adheres to the requirements listed on this page.

### INSTRUMENT POSITIONING GUIDELINES:

Violin & Viola	Face slightly to your left, so the fingerboard is visible and not obstructed by a music stand. F Holes should point towards the camera.
Cello & Bass	Face slightly to your right, so the fingerboard is visible and not obstructed by a music stand.
Woodwind	Ensure your hands are visible and keys are not obstructed by a music stand.
Brass	Do not point the bell directly towards the camera.
Harp	Face towards your right, so both hands are visible. Foot pedals should also be visible.
Piano	Angle the camera so that the keyboard is not obstructed by your body and hands are visible.

## STAGE 3 – ONLINE SUBMISSION

When your recordings are complete, take a moment to ensure you feel the video recordings are a good representation of your instrumental ability. To finalise your applications, you need to submit your video recordings in the AYO Portal.

Your AYO recorded audition should be uploaded by **the following due dates:**

Strings	Tuesday 30 July 2024
Winds / Brass	Thursday 1 August 2024
Percussion / Harp / Piano	Thursday 1 August 2024

We recommend submitting before the due date to avoid last minute issues. Please note that once you have submitted your audition videos, AYO will not accept revisions except in exceptional circumstances, and failure to upload by the deadline may result in non-assessment of your application. When you are ready, follow the instructions below.

### HOW TO SUBMIT:

1. Save your video files using the following naming convention (and keep a back-up copy):
  - **2025 AYO Violin Excerpts – LAST NAME First Name**
  - **2025 AYO Violin Own Choice – LAST NAME First Name**
2. Log into the AYO Portal and navigate to the “My Auditions” tab.
3. Check the list on the right-hand side and select the instrument name for the relevant application.
4. When the application opens, select the “Edit” button.
5. Enter your information in the corresponding fields & select “Save” to record this information.
6. Select “Upload Media” and choose one of your audition video files.
7. Remain on this page until the progress reaches 100%, then select “Next”.
8. Repeat steps 6–7 for any other videos.
9. Check that your videos play when clicked on the application details page.
10. Relax! If your videos play and the application details are correct, then you’re free to log out.

If you have questions that are not addressed in this document, or experience any issues in submitting your audition videos, please contact AYO on 1300 668 500 or email [info@ayo.com.au](mailto:info@ayo.com.au).