



AYO AUDITION AND SELECTION POLICY

AYO is committed to making its programs available to all young musicians based on individual merit, and maintains a system that ensures that no individual candidate is disadvantaged by AYO's audition and selection process.

The auditions are conducted by two-member audition panels who:

1. Determine if an applicant meets the required standard for participation in an ensemble
2. Rank the audition performance compared to other applicants for each ensemble

Audition Process

1. *Application:* New players to AYO, AYS or AYW submit an application form. Existing players in ensembles do not need to audition. Applicants should read and complete the application form carefully.
2. *Processing:* The AYO Committee processes the applications and allocates audition dates, times and venues for each applicant based on the availability of venue rooms and panel members. The dates and venues for each instrument are advertised in advance on the application form so that applicants can keep those times free.
3. *Requirements:* All audition requirements are on the Audition Application Form, and are subject to annual review. Audition requirements may be adjusted to suit the needs of the ensemble.

AYO	AYS	AYW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excerpt of 1 prepared work - unaccompanied (2 min MAX in duration) • 2 set orchestral excerpts (made available 2 weeks prior to auditions) • 7 minute duration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excerpt of 1 prepared work - unaccompanied (2 min MAX in duration) • 5 minute total duration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excerpt of 1 prepared work - unaccompanied (2 min MAX in duration) • 5 minute total duration

4. *Notification:* When relevant, excerpts become available on www.armidaleyouthorchestras.org.au on the advertised date at gam. The letters of notification are emailed two weeks prior to the auditions to allow sufficient time for applicants to prepare.
5. *Auditions:* The auditions take place in November for AYO and AYWE and in February for AYSO as advertised in the membership form.
6. *Results:* The audition results are emailed to applicants by the date shown on the audition application, within 4 weeks of the audition. The decisions of the audition panel are considered final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Late Auditions

1. AYO will consider arranging late auditions for applicants who cannot attend, due to important extenuating circumstances. Such requests must be made by email or in writing to AYO
2. Late auditions may be conducted before or after a scheduled ensemble rehearsal, or other appropriate AYO event, by the relevant Ensemble Conductor or an appropriate instrumental specialist.
3. To maintain consistency, candidates undertaking a late audition will be required to prepare the same materials and, where relevant, perform the same set works/audition excerpts as those candidates who participated in the main audition rounds.
4. At its discretion, AYO may elect to alter these audition requirements to suit the preparation timeframe available to the applicant.

Sight reading/audition excerpts

1. Selected AYO ensembles may require standardised sight reading and audition excerpts to be performed by candidates at the audition. When required, a summary of such details is placed on the Audition Application Form so all candidates are aware of any such requirements at the time of application.
2. For programs that require sight reading/audition excerpts, the materials will be selected by the relevant instrumental specialist, in consultation with AYO Ensemble Conductor.
3. All persons involved in the selection and preparation of the sight reading/audition excerpts are required to keep their knowledge of the materials strictly confidential prior to the official release date and time.
4. Audition excerpts will be made available to all applicants via download from the AYO website on the date advertised in the audition application form.
5. Copies of all audition excerpts may be requested by candidates to be sent via postal mail where required.

Audition assessment

1. For each audition, the audition panel assesses the following:
 - musical style, accuracy of performance and following the directions of the music
 - general intonation, rhythm, dynamics and tone production
 - staccato, sautille and spiccato bowings for strings
 - legato & tonguing for wind and brass
 - performance of own choice piece 1-2 mins duration
 - conductors' comments on orchestral skills and attendance (for ongoing members)
2. The audition panel will rank each player in the section the candidate has nominated to apply for by giving an overall score out of 100.
3. The relevant instrumental specialist, in consultation with AYO Ensemble Conductor will make the recommendation on seating placement in AYO taking into consideration the player's commitment to the orchestra.

Audition Results and Ensemble Offers

1. Ensembles position offers will be based on individual merit determined by the candidate's audition ranking and the audition panel's recommendation for ensemble placement.
2. The Audition Panel is responsible for collating and comparing the candidate rankings and audition panel recommendations, determining ensemble position offers. The AYO committee communicates the offers to candidates.
3. Ensemble position offers will be sent from AYO via email no later than the deadline advertised in the audition application form
4. Audition panel members cannot and must not communicate any audition observations, assessments or recommendations to any individual.
5. Based on audition results, AYO at its discretion may choose to offer a position, or make a 'no offer' where a candidate has been unsuccessful in auditioning for their chosen ensemble/program.
6. Where a candidate has been unsuccessful in auditioning for their chosen ensemble/program, AYO may choose at its discretion to offer the candidate an alternative placement
7. The first two ranked players in each section of each ensemble is appointed through the annual audition process as the section leaders. They have special responsibilities and are required to read and follow the "AYO Section Leader Guidelines".

Results & Appeal

1. The decisions of the audition panel are considered final and no correspondence will be entered into. AYO is not able to provide verbal feedback or written reports specific to any player's audition.
2. There is no guarantee that a current member of AYO will progress into another orchestra, or move up the section. Players progress at different rates and new applicants apply each year, and players may be placed anywhere in the section.

Audition Panel Members

1. The audition panel comprises the AYO Ensemble Conductor and a relevant instrumental specialist. An AYO committee member provides administrative support only. The designated AYO committee member shall not have any influence on the final ranking or recommendation of candidates.
2. Each audition panel is required to manage any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest when performing their role in the audition and selection process. Panel members are required to show no bias towards or against their own students.

Confidentiality

1. All information gained through the audition process is private and confidential. Under no circumstances will information be given on or correspondence entered into regarding a player's specific audition results with the player, the player's parents or teachers.
2. This requirement complies with AYO's privacy policy and mirrors the audition processes in the music profession.