

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions about Auditions



What do I have to prepare for an audition?

- orchestral excerpts, from www.qyo.org.au
- own-choice, 1 to 2 minutes only

How do I prepare?

If possible, listen to recordings of these excerpts and take the excerpts to your teacher for preparation. Use a metronome to make sure the tempo is correct and look up the musical terms. If possible, ask your teacher for assistance to understand why the excerpts were selected and do your best to demonstrate those musical or technical concepts.

How long are auditions?

Each audition is 3-4 minutes duration. You can warm-up for 5 minutes prior at the audition venue.

Do I need to prepare excerpts for all my orchestra preferences?

No, you only need to prepare the excerpts for the orchestra you listed as your first preference, which is stated on your letter.

What happens on the day of the audition?

You should arrive 15 minutes prior to your allocated time, to allow for parking, registration and warm-up. A team of volunteers assist QYO staff in marshalling the audition applicants. After sign-in, you will be directed to a warm-up room shared with 2-3 other applicants. You will then be asked to wait outside the audition room until you are called to audition.

Can I change my audition date or time?

It is generally not possible to change your audition time due to the large number of applicants and limited booking times and dates of the panel and the rooms. If you have extenuating circumstances, or if you are sick with a doctor's certificate, please contact the office.

What if I definitely cannot attend that date or time?

You may have to submit a pre-recorded CD audition, if you know in advance that you cannot attend the allocated date or time as printed in the audition brochure or letter. Please contact the office for assistance.

Do current members re-audition each year?

Yes. For ongoing QYO members, assessment will be made on the audition performance in addition to the conductor's comments on your orchestral skills, attendance records and commitment to QYO throughout the year. All positions are declared vacant until the audition process is complete and players' positions may change from year to year as players progress at their own pace. There will be those who will benefit from continuing with their current ensemble and some who are ready to face the challenges of another ensemble.

How do the panel assess each audition?

Each audition is ranked by the panel who assess the following:

- general intonation, rhythm, dynamics and tone production
- musical style, accuracy of performance and following the directions of the music
- staccato, spiccato & sautille bowings for strings
- legato & tonguing for wind and brass
- performance of own choice piece, 1-2 minutes only
- attendance & achievement record by the conductor, if ongoing member

My audition clashes with a QYS rehearsal!

If the office has double-booked you with an audition during a compulsory QYS rehearsal, please contact the office immediately.

What do I wear?

It is recommended that you wear neat casual clothes so you look presentable, and to bring a jacket in case the weather turns cool.

Do auditions run on time?

Yes, generally auditions do run on time. It is important for players to be on time and sign-in correctly, to avoid delays. Due to the large number of applicants, it is difficult to have your audition at the exact time allocated on your letter. It is usually within 5-10 minutes.

Is there parking at both venues?

Yes, at Brisbane Grammar School and the Old Museum Building, there is parking in the front car park and on the street. Please read the directions on your letter and allow enough time to find the venue and parking.

How is the section seating decided?

The panel recommends seating and the conductor will confirm all placements during first term and at camp. All orchestras must be balanced with a range of secure and experienced players. Players may be rotated within sections during the year as it is an essential orchestral skill for all players to learn how to perform within different sections and seating positions.

Are AMEB exam grades taken into consideration?

No. The AMEB grades are cited as a reference point only, to guide players in their choice of orchestra ensemble preferences. Exam level or results are not taken into consideration and applicants do not have to have completed AMEB exams to apply.

Why does it take so long for results to come out?

QYO has a small number of staff to check, process and print results and forms for the results mailout. It takes many weeks for this process to be done correctly. You can read the *QYO processes & policies* document for more information.