

WACO 2018

Audition Process and Tenure Policy

Western Australian Charity Orchestra & Western Australian Wind Symphony

Since its inception in 2008, WACO has always had a thorough audition process for each of its ensembles. By holding annual auditions, we have experienced increasingly stronger ensembles each year.

As WACO grows and evolves, we will continue to make changes to improve our audition process. The audition process for 2018 is outlined below, as well as our newly introduced tenure policy.

Please read the document carefully.

AUDITION PROCESS

To ensure an environment that is as free from bias as possible, our instrumental ensembles are auditioned using a screened process. A screen is put in place between the candidate and audition panel, ensuring anonymity for the candidate, and enabling the audition panel to make their decisions based solely on performance and without unconscious bias.

AUDITION MATERIALS

Excerpts for the orchestral auditions will be from orchestral repertoire, and excerpts for the wind symphony auditions will be from concert band literature. If you are auditioning for both ensembles, you will be required to do a separate audition for each.

Excerpts will be provided via email 14 days in advance of the set audition day. If you are unable to attend your audition on the set audition day, you will be required to complete an early audition. You will not be permitted to audition later than other candidates, as this will put you at an unfair advantage.

PRINCIPAL AND TUTTI AUDITIONS

The difference between principal and tutti roles is that principal players lead their sections (eg. principal flute, concertmaster, principal viola etc.), and tutti players fill all other roles (eg. 2nd & 3rd flute, 1st violins other than concertmaster, etc.).

In some cases, a musician who is the only player of their instrument will need to complete a principal audition (eg. principal tuba, principal harp, etc.), and in other cases musicians will be the only player of their instrument in the ensemble and will not be principal players (eg. bass trombone, contrabass clarinet etc.).

The chart below outlines the nature of each section for both the orchestra and wind symphony.

ORCHESTRA	
Principal Auditions	Tutti Auditions
Violin	Violin
Viola	Viola
Violoncello	Violoncello
Double Bass	Double Bass
Flute	Flute
Oboe	Oboe
Clarinet	Clarinet
Bassoon	Bassoon
Horn	Horn
Trumpet	Trumpet
Trombone	Trombone
	Bass Trombone
Tuba	
Timpani & Percussion	Timpani & Percussion
Harp	Harp
	Piano

WIND SYMPHONY	
Principal Auditions	Tutti Auditions
Flute	Flute
Oboe	Oboe
Bassoon	Bassoon
Clarinet	Clarinet
Bass Clarinet	Bass Clarinet
	Contrabass Clarinet
Alto Saxophone	Alto Saxophone
	Tenor Saxophone
	Baritone Saxophone
Horn	Horn
Trumpet	Trumpet
Trombone	Trombone
	Bass Trombone
Euphonium	Euphonium
Tuba	Tuba
Timpani & Percussion	Timpani & Percussion
Double Bass	Double Bass

PRINCIPAL AUDITIONS

To determine leaders for each section, principal auditions are held on another day prior to tutti auditions. A principal audition will consist of three contrasting excerpts that will be different than those set for tutti auditions.

The panels for principal auditions will be made up of external music professionals. If you are successful in your principal audition, you may be invited to act as a panel member for the tutti auditions.

If you are unsuccessful in a principal audition and still wish to be a member of an ensemble, you may be required to complete an additional tutti audition (eg. when two candidates are auditioning for the same principal position, the panel may decide to award an associate principal position, or shared principal positions). This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

TUTTI AUDITIONS

Tutti auditions will be held after principal roles have been awarded, and will consist of three contrasting excerpts that will be different than those set for principal auditions.

The panels for tutti auditions will be made up of successful candidates from the principal auditions. If you are auditioning for a woodwind or brass position, your audition panel will not include your section's principal player to avoid a conflict of interest.

RESERVE AUDITIONS

If there are no vacancies open for a section, non-members are welcome to audition for a reserve position. In the case that an ensemble member is unavailable to perform during the year, successful reserve candidates will be offered the opportunity to play.

AUXILIARY WOODWINDS

Assignments for auxiliary woodwinds such as piccolo, cor anglais, alto clarinet etc., will be negotiated throughout the season by the music director and principal players. There will be no auditions for auxiliary woodwinds (except for some cases in the wind symphony).

All woodwind applicants will be required to complete a brief survey on the day of their audition outlining their interest, experience and access to these instruments. For further explanation on how auxiliary woodwinds will be assigned, please contact us.

AUDITION ADJUDICATING PROCEDURE

Each candidate will be awarded a score by the audition panel using a set marking key. The panel will be marking you on details such as intonation, tone, rhythm, articulation, note accuracy, etc. Your score will determine your eligibility, position and tenure for an ensemble.

1. The minimum score a candidate can receive in an audition is **3**.
2. The maximum score a candidate can receive in an audition is **15**.
3. Only candidates who score a minimum of **7** will be considered for a position.
4. Only candidates who score **9** or above will be offered two years tenure in the ensemble.
5. The average score for successful candidates for the 2017 season was **10**.

TENURE POLICY

Tenure is offered to those who score **9** or above in their audition, which will allow them to be a member of the ensemble for 2 years (the exact months of this will depend on season calendars). If a candidate who scores between **7-8** is offered a position in an ensemble, they will only be offered membership for 1 year.

Tenure applies to membership in the ensemble, not to your position in your section.

Members with tenure are still required to audition each year to determine seating for the following year. If you are successful in this audition, your tenure will be extended for an additional year.

If you have questions about the audition process, please contact us for more information. We look forward to receiving your application.

Best wishes,

The WACO Committee

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