

WACO Audition Process

Updated 7th August 2019

Western Australian Charity Orchestra & Western Australian Wind Symphony

Since its inception in 2008, WACO has always held 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 2020 is outlined below. 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. Candidates personal information including age, gender, name etc. is kept confidential and not provided to the audition panel, and a screen is put in place between the candidate and audition panel. This ensures anonymity for the candidate, and enables the audition panel to make their decisions based solely on performance and without the influence of conscious or 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 may put you at an unfair advantage.

PRINCIPAL AND TUTTI AUDITIONS

The differences between principal and tutti roles are 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.). Principal audition excerpts are more challenging than the tutti excerpts, and often more soloistic in nature.

In some cases, a musician who is the only player of their instrument will need to complete a principal audition, and in other cases musicians will be the only player of their instrument in the ensemble and will not be principal players.

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

WIND SYMPHONY	
Principal Auditions	Tutti Auditions
Flute	Flute
Piccolo	
Oboe	Oboe
Bassoon	Bassoon
Clarinet	Clarinet
Bass 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 an earlier date than the 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 (e.g. 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.

RESERVE LIST

If there are no vacancies open for a section, candidates can express their interest officially online and will be placed on a reserve list. In the case that an ensemble member is unavailable to perform during the year, or should a vacancy arise in an ensemble, reserve candidates will be offered the opportunity to audition or participate (depending on circumstances).

AUXILIARY WOODWINDS & CORNETS

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 separate auditions held for auxiliary woodwinds not listed in the table on page 2.

All woodwind and trumpet applicants are able to outline their interest, experience and access to auxiliary woodwinds in the audition application form. For further explanation on how auxiliary woodwinds and cornet will be assigned, please contact us.

Trumpet excerpts will contain one cornet excerpt that may be played on either cornet or trumpet as per the candidate's preference.

HARP AND PIANO AUDITIONS

As the repertoire for the orchestra and wind symphony does not always call for harp and piano, successful piano and harp candidates are invited to play with each ensemble as the need arises.

Harp and piano candidates will be required to complete auditions in the same manner as all other instrumental candidates. Piano and harp auditions can be arranged by contacting us at

info@waco.org.au.

TIMPANI & PERCUSSION AUDITIONS

Percussion auditions will be held a different time, date and venue to the other instrumental auditions. Timpani & Percussion auditions for both ensembles will be held on the same date at a time that suits candidates and the audition panel (arranged after applications have closed).

Candidates who are awarded principal roles will be required to act as the panel for the tutti Timpani & Percussion auditions.

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 for, and position within, the ensemble

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