



# WEST COAST PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

## **Audition Process (Updated February 2020)** West Coast Philharmonic Orchestra

Since its inception in 2008, WACO ensembles have always held a thorough audition process. By holding annual auditions, we have experienced increasingly stronger ensembles each year. Auditions allow the ensemble to be balanced, and encourage a healthy social dynamic within the ensembles.

As our ensembles grow and evolve, we will continue to make changes to improve our audition process. The West Coast Phil's audition process for 2020 is outlined below.

### **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 auditions are taken from orchestral repertoire. 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> flute, 1<sup>st</sup> violins other than concertmaster, etc.). Principal audition excerpts will be 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 of the orchestra.

Principal Roles	Tutti Roles
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	
Piano	

## PRINCIPAL AUDITIONS

To determine leaders for each section, principal auditions are held on an earlier date than 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**

In some situations, candidates may not be awarded a place in the orchestra due to competition, but may still meet the standard required for the ensemble. These candidates will be placed on the reserve list. In the case that an orchestra member is unavailable to perform during the year, or should a vacancy arise in the ensemble, reserve candidates will be offered the opportunity to participate first before the committee seeks an outside player to fill the role.

### **AUXILIARY WOODWINDS**

Assignments for auxiliary woodwinds such as piccolo, cor anglais, contrabassoon etc. will be negotiated throughout the season by the music director and principal players. There will be no separate auditions held for auxiliary woodwinds.

All woodwind applicants will be required to express their interest, experience and access to auxiliary woodwinds as a part of the application process. For further explanation on how auxiliary woodwinds will be assigned, please contact us.



## **HARP AND PIANO AUDITIONS**

As the repertoire for the West Coast Phil and WA Wind Symphony does not always call for harp and piano, successful piano and harp candidates are invited to play with the either ensemble as the need arises.

Harp and piano candidates will be required to complete auditions in the same manner as all other instrumental candidates. There will not be separate auditions held for principal or tutti harp and piano auditions; all harp and piano auditions are treated as principal auditions.

## **TIMPANI & PERCUSSION AUDITIONS**

Percussion auditions will be held a different time, date and venue to the other instrumental auditions. Principal 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.* Tutti auditions for both ensembles will also be held on the same date at a time that suits candidates and the audition panel.

## **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