



Audition Process (Updated February 2021)

West Coast Philharmonic Orchestra

Since its inception in 2008, WACO ensembles have always held a thorough audition process. By holding annual auditions, our ensembles are experiencing substantial increases in quality. Auditions allow the ensemble to be well-balanced musically and encourage a healthy social dynamic.

As our ensembles grow and evolve, we will continue to make changes to improve our audition process. The audition process for the West Coast Philharmonic for 2021 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**. The personal information of candidates including age, gender, name etc. is kept confidential and not provided to the audition panel. A screen is put in place between the candidate and audition panel. This ensures anonymity for the candidate and enables the panel to make their decisions based solely on performance and without the influence of conscious or unconscious bias.

However, to increase accessibility and to ease the audition process among the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, all auditions for the April 2021-February 2022 season will be submitted as pre-recorded videos.

Auditions must first be received in a **video format** to ensure validity and authenticity. WACO staff will then convert each video audition into an anonymous audio file for assessment by the panel.



RECORDED AUDITIONS

It is within an applicant's best interest to provide a video recording with a **high level of sound quality**. In most cases, a good quality phone camera and built-in microphone will suffice. If you believe you do not have access to suitable equipment, you are encouraged to contact the WACO committee who will do all they can to assist you with this.

The committee can be reached via info@waco.org.au.

- Recordings are to be emailed to samuel.parry@waco.org.au and must be submitted by 11:59pm on the due date.
- Recordings must be audio-visual, not just audio. Recordings that are audio only will not be accepted by the committee.
- You must be visible in the video recording so we can prove that it is you playing the excerpts, and that they were played in one take. After we have received the recording, we will convert it into an MP3 before presenting it to the panel to ensure your anonymity.
- All excerpts are to be recorded in one take without pausing the recording equipment. You are not permitted to edit the recording. *However, you may make as many takes as you wish and submit the one that you feel best represents your playing abilities.*
- The set excerpts must be played in numerical order.
- You must not speak during the recording.
- Recordings must be made in, or converted to, one of the following formats: MPEG, WMV, AVI or MP4.

AUDITION MATERIALS

Excerpts for the auditions are taken from orchestral repertoire. Excerpts will be provided via email 14 days in advance of the due date. *Auditions will not be accepted beyond the due date.* If there are extenuating circumstances that render you unable to prepare the excerpts within the 14 days, special permission will need to be received from the music director to submit your audition beyond the due date.

Our music director can be reached via samuel.parry@waco.org.au.



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.

PRINCIPAL AND TUTTI AUDITIONS

The differences between principal and tutti roles are that principal players lead their sections (e.g., principal flute, concertmaster, principal viola, etc.), and tutti players fill all other roles (e.g., 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.

- Bass Trombone is a tutti role only.
- Tuba auditions are held in the tutti time period, and the audition panel will decide whether the tuba candidate who is successful is awarded a principal title.

PRINCIPAL VS TUTTI 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. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.



RESERVE LIST

In some situations, candidates may still meet the standard required for the ensemble but may not be awarded a place in the orchestra due to competition. 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, bass clarinet, contrabassoon, etc. will be negotiated throughout the season by the music director and principal players.

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.

Usually, separate auditions are not held for auxiliary woodwinds. However, if *all* candidates express interest in an auxiliary woodwind and have access to that instrument, then an excerpt for that instrument may be included in the set audition materials.

HARP, PIANO, TIMPANI & PERCUSSION PLAYERS

As the repertoire for the West Coast Phil does not always call for harp, piano, or a set number of percussionists, musicians who play these instruments are invited to play with the orchestra as the need arises. In some cases, musicians who play these instruments may be required to audition.

Players can register their interest with the music director by emailing samuel.parry@waco.org.au.

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

Best wishes,

The WACO Committee