



Audition Process (Updated July 2022)

Western Australian Wind Symphony

Since its inception in 2008, WACO ensembles have always held a thorough audition process. 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 current audition process for the Western Australian Wind Symphony 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**. Candidate's personal information including name, age, pronouns, etc. is kept confidential and not provided to the audition panel during the scoring process. This ensures anonymity for the candidate and enables the panel to make their decisions based solely on performance and without the influence of unconscious bias.

To increase accessibility and to ease the audition process among the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, all auditions for the upcoming season will be submitted as pre-recorded videos.

Auditions must first be received in a **video format** to ensure validity and authenticity. Only the audio from the audition will be played for the audition panel during the marking process.

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. Once the marking process is complete and all candidates have been awarded scores for their auditions, the audition panel will decide which candidates are to be offered positions in the ensemble.

In situations where the audition panel is unable to make a final decision, the panel will be permitted to know the identities of the candidates and may watch the audition video. **The audition panel will not be permitted to know the identities of candidates or view audition videos until after the marking process is complete.**

The panels for auditions will be made up of external music professionals and the music director.

RECORDED AUDITIONS

It is within an applicant's best interest to provide a video recording with as **high a level of sound quality as possible**. In some 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 must be audio-visual, not just audio. Recordings that are audio only will not be accepted by the committee.
- All excerpts are to be recorded in one take without pausing the recording equipment. You are not permitted to edit the recording (except for saxophones, percussion, and auxiliary woodwinds). *However, you may make as many takes as you wish and submit the one that you feel best represents your abilities.*
- 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 (where applicable). Please be reminded that the audition panel may view your audition video after the marking process is complete if they have been unable to make a final decision based solely on scores.
- 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.
- Recordings are to be submitted to samuel.parry@waco.org.au and must be submitted by 11:59pm on the due date (Saturday 13th August). These recordings may be submitted as an email attachment, or via a file sharing service (such as Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox, etc.).

AUDITION MATERIALS

Excerpts for the auditions are selected mostly from concert band 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.

PRINCIPAL AND TUTTI ROLES

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, etc.).

PRINCIPAL VS TUTTI AUDITIONS

In previous years principal and tutti auditions were held at separate times with entirely different sets of excerpts. This has now changed. Those interested in a principal role will be required to prepare one extra excerpt, and all other audition materials will be the same for all candidates. Principal and tutti auditions will all be due on the same date.

RESERVE LIST

In some situations, candidates may still meet the standard required for the ensemble but may not be awarded a place in the ensemble due to competition. These candidates will be placed on the reserve list. In the case that an ensemble 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

Candidates who are interested in auxiliary woodwinds will have the opportunity to audition for these if they wish.

- If auditioning for an auxiliary woodwind you must also submit an audition for the main woodwind instrument (for example, a candidate submitting the piccolo excerpt *must* submit a full tutti or principal flute audition).
- Auxiliary woodwind auditions will include only one excerpt.
- The auxiliary instrument audition is to be submitted as a separate video.

Assignments for contrabassoon will be negotiated by the music director, and contrabassoon excerpts will not be provided.

HARP & PIANO

As the repertoire for the WA Wind Symphony does not always call for harp or piano, musicians who play these instruments are invited to play with the ensemble 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