



2027 SYO AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Please read **all** information below carefully. Your video audition must contain the following:

1. PIECE OF YOUR OWN CHOICE - MAXIMUM OF 3 MINUTES

- Talk to your instrumental teacher and choose a piece, or section of a piece that you know well. Your selection should demonstrate a variety of skills and your musicality and technical ability. You can choose a piece with accompaniment, but it **must be performed unaccompanied** in your audition video.
- We strongly recommend choosing a piece from the core repertoire for your instrument, and/or from an established examination syllabus such as AMEB, Trinity College London or ABRSM.
- **Note for saxophone applicants:** you may audition on Alto, Tenor, or both. If auditioning on both, you'll need to include all elements (scales/arpeggios, excerpts and own choice piece) for each instrument. If you'd also like to showcase Baritone or Soprano Saxophone, you can add scales and an own choice piece on those instruments too.

2. TWO SCALES & ARPEGGIOS - ONE MAJOR SET & ONE MINOR SET

- Prepare two scales and their associated arpeggios from memory: one in a major key, and one in a minor key (either melodic or harmonic minor). You can choose the key signature, number of octaves, bowing and tempo for both. Use this as an opportunity to demonstrate your current level of technical ability.
- **String players should use contrasting bowings for each scale set. Percussion applicants do not need to include scales.**

3. ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS

- Excerpts will be sent to applicants on **Thursday 10 September**.
- Orchestral excerpts are an important part of your audition, and we strongly recommend working through them with your instrumental teacher. Prepare and record all excerpts, and read any accompanying instructions carefully — pay close attention to markings such as brackets (only play within them), dynamics, bowings, fingerings, articulation, repeats and rests.
- The panel will be assessing your technical ability alongside your musicality, so think about tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, articulation, tempo and intonation as you prepare.
- It can help to listen to full recordings of your excerpts. Try searching YouTube or Spotify to hear how they sit within the piece.
- Please treat any tempo markings as a guide rather than a strict requirement. An excerpt played accurately under tempo will always be viewed more favourably than one played quickly but inaccurately.

KEY DATES

- **2027 Audition Excerpts Released** - Thursday 10 September, 2026
- **2027 Video Submissions Open** - Thursday 24 September, 2026
- **2027 Video Submissions Close** - Thursday 22 October, 2026
- **2027 Offers Sent** - Friday 18 December, 2026

**A limited number of late auditions are available for applicants undertaking HSC or university examinations, high-level instrument exams, or facing other extenuating circumstances. Each application is assessed individually, and you will be notified by email whether your late audition has been granted.*

If granted, your new submission date will be included in that email. If not, your original submission date will remain as outlined above. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@syo.com.au.



VIDEO RECORDING & SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

One Continuous Video, With No Sound or Video Editing

Your audition video must be recorded in one take, with no sound or video editing. If your video shows signs of editing, you will be asked to resubmit.

*SYO may accept videos recorded in more than one take from **percussionists** whose circumstances prevent them from recording in a room with all required instruments. If you think this may apply to you, please contact us at info@syo.com.au to discuss before you submit.*

Video Length

There is no limit on video length, as long as your submission includes all required elements (excerpts, scales, and your own choice piece). Remember, your own choice piece must not exceed 3 minutes.

Video File Type and Size/ Recording Device

You can use any device with audio and video capabilities to record your audition, including digital cameras, digital recorders, mobile phones, tablets and computers. Any video format from these devices is accepted (MOV, MP4, WMV, AVI, etc). If the panel has trouble opening your video, we'll contact you by email.

There is no limit on file size, though larger files will take longer to upload.

Order

You can play the three required elements in whatever order feels most comfortable to you:

1. All excerpts relevant to the orchestra you're auditioning for
2. One major and one minor scale, with arpeggios
3. Your own choice piece (maximum 3 minutes)

Announce Your Name and all Elements

At the start of your video, clearly state your name, instrument and orchestra preference. Before each element, announce what you're about to play, as follows:

1. Excerpts: state the excerpt number
2. Scales: state the key of each scale, along with the number of octaves and bowings
3. Own choice piece: state the full title and composer. Be as descriptive as possible, including movement name/number and arranger, if applicable

Framing & Lighting

Your video must clearly show your instrument, face, torso and hands. Aim to frame your entire upper body - this also helps sound quality, since being too close to the camera can distort the audio. If the panel can't clearly see your playing, you may be asked to resubmit your video.

Before you Upload

Please name your file using the following convention: **FirstName_LastName_Instrument_OrchestraPreference** (for example, John_Doe_Violin_Stage1 or Jane_Doe_Cello_Stage1). Files that aren't named correctly risk not being found by our system, and therefore not being assessed.

Uploading your File

Video submissions open on **Thursday 24 September**. You'll receive an email from SYO with a personalised submission link, and you'll have until **Thursday 22 October** to submit your video.

Click the link in your email and follow the instructions to upload. Uploading may take several minutes depending on your file size and internet speed. Once you've submitted your video, you'll also need to complete a short form with details of your own choice piece.