

QYO Audition Processes & Policies

General

QYO holds auditions in October each year to determine positions in QYO ensembles for the following year. All positions are declared vacant until the audition process is complete.

The auditions are conducted by two-member audition panels who

1. determine if an applicant meets the required standard for participation in an ensemble
2. rank the audition performance of an applicant in relation to those of the other applicants for each ensemble

Audition Stages

The audition process comprises five stages and is managed by the QYO office. There are around 600 applications and auditions, from which 480 offers and 80 reserve offers are selected.

1. *Application:* Each applicant submits an application form (either online or the paper form) with payment of an application fee. All current QYO members must re-audition annually alongside new applicants. Applicants should read and complete the application form carefully. QYO accepts late applications with the appropriate late fee.
2. *Processing:* The office processes the applications and allocates audition dates, times and venues for each applicant based on the availability of venue rooms and the audition panel members. The dates and venues for each instrument are advertised in advance on the application form so that applicants can keep those times free.
3. *Notification:* By the advertised date, the office posts or emails a letter to each applicant detailing their audition date, time, venue and ensemble of first choice. The excerpts become available on www.qyo.org.au on the advertised date at 12 noon. Applicants must print and prepare the excerpts, and in addition, prepare a 1-2 minute own-choice piece. The letters of notification are posted or emailed two weeks prior to the auditions to allow sufficient time for applicants to prepare.
4. *Auditions:* The auditions take place over two weekends in October as advertised in the audition brochure.
5. *Results:* The audition results are posted or emailed to applicants by the date shown in the audition brochure, usually in mid-November.

Pre-recorded CD Auditions

Applicants who know in advance that they are unable to attend an audition on the allocated day and time are required to prepare and submit a CD recording. Due to the limited availability of audition panel and venue rooms, it is not always possible to change audition times or days.

Late Auditions

QYO will consider arranging late auditions for applicants who cannot attend, if they have special extenuating circumstances. Such requests must be made by email or in writing to the QYO office. Consideration will be given to applicants with long term illness, injury or inability to attend, but audition results cannot be delayed for these late auditions.

Audition Assessment

For each audition, the audition panel assesses the following:

- ability to perform at the required level for the ensemble of the applicant's first preference
- general intonation, rhythm, dynamics and tone production
- staccato & sautille bowings for strings
- legato & tonguing for wind and brass
- performance of own choice piece 1-2 mins duration
- for ongoing members, conductors' comments on orchestral skills and administrators' comments on attendance record & commitment

Audition Results

Following the auditions, the panels record their recommendations and pass the results to the QYO office. The office checks the audition forms against the results to ensure that the results are correct with respect to player preferences, specific instruments and age limits. The office forwards results to the conductors for approval. Once the conductors have approved the lists, the office processes the results and posts or emails a separate notification letter to each applicant by the advertised date.

There are three separate letters of notification:

1. Position Offer with membership, camp, medical and general information forms
2. Reserve Offer, indicating that the applicant may eventually receive a Position Offer if one or more applicants decline their offers or leave the ensemble after accepting offers, or if augmenting players are required throughout the year
3. Notification of an unsuccessful audition

The letters of offer includes provisional section rankings. All rankings are subject to change up to and including camp, or 31 March for those ensembles who do not have a camp. The final decisions regarding rankings are made by the conductors, in consultation with tutors.

Section Leaders

The first-ranked player in each section of each ensemble is appointed through the annual audition process as the section leader. They have special responsibilities and are required to read and follow the "QYO Section Leaders Duty Statement".

Joining Two Orchestras

Full-time membership in two orchestras is not possible, except at the discretion of the Director of Music.

Responses to Offers

All applicants must respond by the due date. When offers are declined, the office promptly contacts applicants who have received Reserve offers to offer them positions. When the reserves list is depleted, the positions become officially vacant. In the new year, once all offers have been finalised and processed, the office prepares a list of vacancies for each ensemble. These vacancies will be sourced and filled at the conductors' discretion, in consultation with the Director of Music. Applicants will complete late audition forms and prepare audition pieces. The panel for their audition may consist of a QYO conductor, tutor or audition panellist, depending on availability of the artistic staff.

Results & Appeal

The number and standard of applicants for each instrument and ensemble changes from year to year. This leads to more or less competition for available positions. The positions of ongoing players usually change from year to year as players progress at their own pace and are ranked alongside new applicants. There is no guarantee of promotion based on applicants' present placements within ensembles.

If players wish to appeal an audition decision, this must be done via email or in writing to the Director of Music via the QYO office.

Audition Panel Members

Each audition panel comprises two professional musicians and these typically include music teachers and members of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. Many panel members are former QYO members. The panel members read and sign confidentiality statements, ensuring that they will not enter into discussion relating to audition results, and that no bias or favour will be given to any applicants.

If an audition panel member is the parent of an applicant, a third panellist will be asked to hear that audition. If an audition panel member is a current or former teacher of an applicant, they are obliged to advise the other panel member. The second panel member and ensemble conductor will have the final decision on that applicant's position.

Confidentiality

The information gained from the auditions process is confidential. QYO audition panel members, conductors, office staff and volunteers cannot discuss audition results with players, parents or teachers.