

NYOS In-person Group Auditions

Please read through the guidance below before attending your in-person audition.

As part of our orchestra application process, you have been invited to attend an in-person group audition. The time, date and location of your in-person audition will be shared with you via email once applications have closed.

Why have a group audition?

Over the last couple of years, you have let us know that you would like more opportunities to play with your fellow musicians throughout the year.

This is an opportunity for you to play alongside other young people from across Scotland and a chance to meet some of our tutors and staff, as well as Rebecca Miller, who will be conducting these sessions.

The group auditions are also a chance for anyone new to NYOS to get a taster of what our orchestra courses are like.

The group auditions give you a chance to demonstrate your ensemble music-making skills. For some players, solo auditions, even when they are pre-recorded, can be a bit nerve-racking, and they prefer to play as part of a group. This is their opportunity to do so.

We can also use these auditions to help us ensure we place you in the right position in the right orchestra.

What should I expect from the audition day?

Each group audition will last around 3 hours in total.

The schedule for the session will include the following elements:

- Registration & warm-up
- Sectional Rehearsals – rehearsing led by one of our tutors with others playing the same instrument as you
- Ensemble Rehearsals – playing in a bigger group e.g. strings ensemble, wind and brass ensemble, conducted by Rebecca Miller
- Break – snacks and water will be provided – please bring a water bottle with you

Please Note: Percussion group auditions will be slightly different. You will be given the chance to play a variety of instruments and then play as a collective with the other young musicians attending.

On arrival at the location of your auditions, please look for NYOS branded signage and NYOS staff to direct you to registration. Staff will also be able to assist you with larger instruments.

If you are under 16, you will need to be dropped off by a parent / guardian and signed back out by them at the end. Parents / guardians will not be expected to stay for the duration of the session.

If you are 16 or 17, you may arrive and leave unaccompanied if we have written permission in advance from your parent / guardian.

Over 18s do not need to be dropped off or signed out.

What preparation do I need to do?

There is limited preparation needed for the in-person audition. These auditions are not about how well you can prepare for the activity. As such, we will provide you with the music for the auditions in advance, but we will not assign you a specific part.

Within the auditions, you may be asked to try to play more than one part. We want everyone to have the chance to try different parts and show their skills in different roles.

In advance, all we ask that you do is:

- Listen to a recording of the music. This will allow you to hear how the music should sound and will be helpful when you come to play it at the auditions. We will send out a Spotify playlist/YouTube when we provide you with the music.
- Have a short look over the music for the session to see if there is anything (e.g. transpositions) you might want to ask your tutor in advance, or the tutor at the audition. The intention is not to have this prepared to performance standard, but to all learn the music together on the day.
- If sight reading is not one of your strengths, you may wish to take a little time to prepare your part and get any help you need from your instrumental teacher. We will not be testing you on your ability to play all the correct notes, but we do want you to enjoy the group session and feel confident and relaxed about your ability to join in.

Hard copies of the music will be provided at the in-person audition so do not worry about printing the pieces out.

Where can I find the music?

Digital copies of the music have been saved on our Dropbox, [here](#). Please make sure to select the correct day and session (morning/afternoon) you have been allocated and look at the music for that time slot **only**.

While minimal preparation is required, it may be helpful to know the sections of the piece which we will be focussing on during the in-person sessions.

Strings

Elgar Strings Serenade ([listen here](#))

- 1st movement - opening until letter F
- 2nd movement - beginning until letter L

Dvorak String Serenade ([listen here](#))

- 1st movement - whole movement
- 3rd movement - beginning until bar 178

Wind and Brass

Finlandia ([listen here](#))

- Whole piece

Pictures at an Exhibition ([listen here](#))

- Promenade 1
- Promenade 2 (Moderato comodo e con delicatezza)
- Tuileries - complete
- Promenade 4 (Tranquillo)
- Ballet des Poussins dans leurs coques
- Limoges

Harps

The Planets ([listen here](#))

- Neptune - whole movement

Percussion

Scheherazade ([listen here](#))

- 3rd and 4th movement

Star Wars

- Whole piece

Thieving Magpie Overture ([listen here](#))

- Whole piece (sinfonia)

Romeo and Juliet ([listen here](#))

- Whole piece

What should I wear?

At the in-person audition, we want you to be as comfortable as possible so you can play to your best. We recommend comfortable, loose clothing that allows you to play your instrument freely and without restrictions. We would suggest you also wear layers in case you get too warm or too cold and can adjust your temperature as needed.

What should I bring with me?

You should bring the following items to your audition:

- Your instrument
- A pencil
- A foldable music stand (if you have one - some spares will be available on the day)
- A water bottle
- Any specific medication/support you need

You should make sure that you bring everything you need for your instrument in order to play:

- **Strings:** Spare strings and a mute (spare strings not required for double basses)
Cello / double bass students must bring spike blocks
Double bass students must bring a double bass stool
- **Harps:** We would ask that you bring your own harp for your audition

- **Woodwind:** Reed instrument students must bring reeds, for their main instrument and for their doubling instrument even if they are borrowing a NYOS doubling instrument
- **Percussion:** All instruments will be provided for the audition but please bring a selection of sticks and beaters.

If you will have any difficulty in bringing the required equipment, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing ensembles@nyos.co.uk

If you would like to play your **doubling instrument** at the in-person audition but do not have one of these instruments, please let us know at ensembles@nyos.co.uk and we will see what we can organise.

How do I get there?

Please see the email accompanying this document for details of which venue you should attend. Parking / transport information for each is included below.

High School of Glasgow, 637 Crow Rd, Glasgow G13 1PL

- On-site parking is available and is accessible via the Anniesland Road entrance.
- Jordanhill and Anniesland train stations are just 5-10 minutes away, while the numerous bus routes at Anniesland Cross provide direct routes to both Glasgow city centre and the nearby suburbs of Bearsden and Milngavie.

Tom Fleming Centre, Stewart's Melville College, Queensferry Rd, Edinburgh EH4 3EZ

- On-site parking is available and is accessible via the Ravelston Terrace entrance.
- There are various bus routes to the area from Edinburgh City centre, including numbers 43, 19, 37, and 133.

What if I am feeling nervous or anxious about the in-person audition?

Do not worry, it is only natural to feel a little nervous about an audition and when getting together with other young musicians you might not know.

We want our in-person auditions to be fun, friendly and very relaxed. First and foremost, these group auditions are a chance for you to connect more with NYOS and play great music with other young people.

We will not be treating these sessions like a test. We are all going to be learning the music together, collaborating to make it sound the best it can be. Mistakes will be made, notes will be missed, that is the nature of music and learning. Do not worry about this, we are not expecting note-perfect performances. We will instead be looking at how you use the process to learn as a young musician and respond to the other musicians playing with you.

The group auditions will help us make sure that we place you in the most appropriate orchestra, and then, within that orchestra, where you might best suited – who might be a good desk partner, or might you be a good person for a principal position.

On the day you will be joined on-site by our fantastic tutors and our wonderful pastoral team. If you are struggling with the music, feeling anxious/overwhelmed, just need a minute, or have a question, they will be there to support you throughout.

At NYOS, we are one and we are many. We are united in music, and unique in our sound. We play together, yet each dance to our own tune. We are an orchestra. Made of many different parts. So come, play yours. Show us your skills and passion for music, and you will shine.