



CANBERRA YOUTH ORCHESTRA & JAMES MCCUSKER ORCHESTRA

# JANUARY 2022 AUDITIONS INFORMATION PACK



## Overview of the Audition Process

- Live auditions for CYO and JMO in 2022 will be held at Ainslie Arts Centre in Braddon on **24 January 2022**, and will require the performance of (1) an 'own choice' work (except for timpani and percussion applicants) and (2) a list of assigned orchestral excerpts.
- Each audition will be assessed by a panel of experienced musicians, teachers, and professionals from the music industry, who will provide individual results/rankings for each instrument.
- Individual offers will be released on **31 January 2022**, and will be based on the results from the audition and the instruments required for each orchestra.
- Applicants must accept their offer by the due date indicated in their letter of offer in order to be enrolled in the orchestra for 2022.

## Timeline

<b>16 December 2021</b>	Registrations open
<b>7 January 2022</b>	Registrations close
<b>10 January 2022</b>	Excerpts released to applicants
<b>24 January 2022</b>	Auditions held at Ainslie Arts Centre
<b>31 January 2022</b>	Results released to applicants

## How to Apply

1. Payment and registration for the audition to be made through Eventbrite by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cyo-jmo-auditions-2022-final-round-tickets-228601712877>
2. Preparation of the audition requirements (see below)

## Audition Requirements

### 1. Piece of your own choice

All applicants (except percussion and timpani) are required to perform a short piece of their own choice, without an accompanist.

Please choose a work, or section of a work, which:

- Clearly demonstrates your technical proficiency
- Emphasises your musicianship
- Presents contrasting musical material
- Is no more than 5 minutes in length

Applicants are not required to present complete works — a carefully selected passage of a longer piece is acceptable. Applicants are strongly advised to check the selection of their piece with their teacher.

## 2. Orchestral excerpts

The orchestral excerpts are in varying styles and degrees of difficulty and are divided into Set A and Set B and Leadership.

**Set A:** All applicants are required to prepare the excerpts labelled Set A.

**Set B:** These excerpts are only required for applicants wishing to be considered for Canberra Youth Orchestra.

**Leadership:** These excerpts are only required for applicants wishing to be considered for Concert Master or Principal Musician role.

All applicants will receive access to a private page on the MfC website once registration and payment has been received. Applicants will then need to download the relevant excerpts for their instrument and position sought.

	Canberra Youth Orchestra	James McCusker Orchestra
Set A	✓	✓
Set B	✓	Not required
Leadership	Optional	Optional

### Useful tips for preparation

To prepare the excerpts to the best of your ability, take time to find out some background about each work. It is important to listen to a recording of the orchestral work from which the excerpt has been taken. Not only will this make it more interesting for you when preparing the excerpt, but it will assist you in understanding the style in which it is usually performed.

Excerpts are very important in the audition process. Whilst they may not seem as interesting to you as your own choice piece, your performance of the excerpts helps the panel understand your approach to music-making and assess your knowledge of orchestral repertoire. Look carefully at all the tempo, dynamic and articulation markings, and consider them when you are preparing each excerpt. Any metronome markings are provided only as an indication. Aim for accuracy, beauty of sound, precise rhythm, and good intonation. Don't forget to seek the guidance of your teacher. The excerpts are of varying difficulty.

### **Woodwind Auxiliary Instruments**

Wind instrument applicants are encouraged to also audition on their respective doubling instruments: Piccolo, Cor anglais, Eb Clarinet, Bass clarinet and Contrabassoon. Wind auxiliary auditions will need to prepare an additional excerpt. An own choice piece is not required for auxiliary instruments.

### **About Music for Canberra**

Music for Canberra offers a variety of different programs for people of all abilities. We offer both individual and group instrumental tuition, as well as the opportunity to take part in an ensemble. We have choirs for both children and adults, as well as an orchestra program that includes the Canberra Youth Orchestra. We also offer mixed ability classes to those living with a disability.

Music for Canberra prioritises music lessons for everyone that inspire and create fun and engaging learning opportunities. Music for Canberra offers high quality music tuition for all and curates accessible and creative ways to make music at our home – the Ainslie Arts centre.

### **About the Canberra Youth Orchestra**

The Canberra Youth Orchestra (CYO) is Canberra's premier youth symphony orchestra. The CYO brings together the region's finest young musicians and is conducted by Louis Sharpe.

The CYO performs a diverse range of repertoire ranging from the staples of Classical music through to contemporary Australian works. The CYO performs regularly at Llewellyn Hall as part of an annual concert series, as well as other regular performances.

**Performance standard:** AMEB 8 or equivalent, or AMEB 7+ for woodwind and brass. Musicians are expected to be taking additional individual instrumental tuition; this can be arranged with a Music for Canberra tutor if musicians don't have a private teacher.

## **About the James McCusker Orchestra**

The James McCusker Orchestra (JMO) is Music for Canberra's second most senior orchestra for young musicians, and is conducted by Doreen Cumming. It is named after one of the original founding members of Canberra Youth Music, passionate musician James 'Jim' McCusker. Through its rehearsal and performance of selectively curated repertoire, the JMO provides an ideal environment for young players to gain exposure to the fundamentals of orchestral ensemble playing.

The James McCusker Orchestra works towards regular performances at venues and community events including at Llewellyn Hall, Floriade, the National Eisteddfod, and festivals in the ACT and wider region.

**Performance standard:** AMEB 5-7 or equivalent. Participants of the James McCusker Orchestra are expected to be taking additional individual instrumental tuition in addition to the orchestra.