

**Audition Guidelines December 2020**

**How to apply**

Application forms are available via the UYO website from the beginning of October 2020.

Please note all candidates must submit an application form before midnight on the closing date of **Monday 2nd November 2020**.

**New applicants** - a non-refundable audition registration fee of £20 is required before an audition can be scheduled. Payments can be made online through the UYO website.

**UYO 2020 members**’ audition fees have been waived for 2021 only.

Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

**CRITERIA**

**Age**

Applicants must be aged between 14 & 23 on 12th August 2021.

**Standard**

Applicants must be of a standard equivalent to at least ABRSM Grade 7.

**Nationality**

Applicants will be accepted from musicians who:

* Were born in Northern Ireland
* Live in Northern Ireland
* Are in full-time study in Northern Ireland (at least 12 hours per week)

**Preference will be given to musicians who fulfil the above criteria however consideration will be given to other applicants to ensure the necessary orchestral balance and preserve the excellence and continuing high standards of the Ulster Youth Orchestra.**

**Any member who was successful in the 2020 audition process and who was offered a place on the 2020 course may apply in 2021** however qualifications gained or previous membership of UYO do not guarantee success at audition - all candidates must re-apply for a place in the Orchestra and are assessed on their performance on the day.

Places are allocated based on the numbers required for the 2021 repertoire.

**The audition**

Due to anticipated Covid-19 restrictions, the auditions will take place live and online via Zoom on **Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December 2020.**

Detailed Online Guidance will be sent before the audition however if you know that your home internet connection is not reliable, an ethernet cable between your device and your router may help in the first instance.

**If restrictions permit** you might wish to identify an alternative venue from which to audition.

Note – you will not be penalised for the quality of your connection but please try your best to find a workable solution.

**What to play**

Candidates will be required to play two contrasting pieces of their own choice, a selection of prepared orchestral excerpts and some sight-reading/quick study.

Own choice **pieces** can be small sections taken from longer pieces and don’t have to be the start of movements – select an appropriate part of the piece that will show the panel your capabilities.

Remember that we are looking for orchestral players, so select music that highlights your musicianship as well as your technical ability. Don’t worry if the panel stop you before you finish your pieces. The pieces should be a combined length of 6-8 minutes.

You will be asked to prepare a selection of **orchestral extracts** in advance of your audition.

* Listen to the pieces that the extracts are taken from.
* Think about their orchestral context.
* Think about appropriate speeds, dynamics and phrasing.
* Be prepared to play them in different ways, as directed by the panel.

**Sight-reading/quick study** will be selected from standard orchestral repertoire.

Remember – whatever happens, keep going!

**Auditions are strictly unaccompanied.**

**Woodwind Players - Doubling Instruments**

By doubling instruments, we mean piccolo, cor anglais, bass clarinet or contrabassoon.

It is not obligatory to audition on a doubling instrument but it increases your chances if you do as often the repertoire requires musicians who can cover the doubling instruments as well. You do not need to prepare a solo piece for your doubling instrument, just the orchestral excerpts. If you do not currently own or play a second instrument but would like to be considered, do let the panel know as we can arrange for the loan of instruments in the lead up to and the duration of the course.

**Percussion**

Percussion candidates are asked to play two contrasting pieces – one on xylophone and one on either snare drums **or** timpani and will also be given sight-reading/quick study.

If you do not have access to these instruments where you live, instruments can be made available for you to audition via Zoom at Garnerville Presbyterian Church in Belfast (subject to restrictions).

Guidelines for attending Garnerville Church Hall in respect of Covid-19 will be sent in advance. Your safety is our number one priority and a form must be signed and returned to accept and respect all terms and conditions around the use of masks, hand sanitiser, disinfectant wipes, social distancing, toilet facilities, shared equipment and access to the building.

**Applying for leader**

You are asked to prepare two pieces:

* A movement from a baroque or classical concerto
* A movement from a romantic or contemporary sonata or concerto

Please prepare the entire movement, however the panel may request to only hear a particular section, or stop you before you finish, in the interests of time. Remember that we are looking for an orchestral leader, so select music that highlights your musicianship as well as your technical ability. The panel will want to see evidence that you can lead a section.

You will be asked to prepare a selection of orchestral excerpts in advance of your audition – both general violin excerpts and specific leader excerpts. Listen to the pieces that the excerpts are taken from. Think about their orchestral context. Think about appropriate speeds, dynamics and phrasing. Be prepared to play them in different ways, as directed by the panel.

Sight-reading/quick study will be selected from standard orchestral repertoire. Remember – whatever happens, keep going!

The panel will have a short chat with you about the role and responsibilities of leading the Orchestra. Be positive! This is your opportunity to show us what you can do and we want you to do well.

All violin applicants will be heard by the same panel and, if required, applicants for the leader position may be invited back for a second round of auditions.

**The panel** (all candidates)

The panel will be made up of professional musicians both from the Ulster Orchestra and local freelance players. Please note: The UYO strives to ensure panels are balanced, where possible, by gender and community background and that there are no known conflicts of interest between panel and candidate eg family or student/teacher connections.

**Late Auditions**

Occasionally we have vacancies for certain instruments at other times of the year. These will be advertised via our website and social media.

**Results**

Results from December auditions will be released before the end of January 2021.

**Reserve list**

A reserve list of those candidates who met the required standard will be created if the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available.

**Feedback**

Feedback is not offered automatically due to the number of candidates who audition however can be requested by emailing manager@uyo.org.uk

If you are not chosen this time we hope you will continue practising and enjoying your music and apply again next year. It will not be possible to repeat your audition for this year if you are unsuccessful – you will only have one chance to audition.

**The decision of the UYO audition panel members in the choice of players is final.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Cost for 2021 membership is £475. This represents approximately 50% of the true cost per member and the remainder is subsidised by the Ulster Youth Orchestra.

Membership fees cover free entry to all of our activities and opportunities during the year and all meals, accommodation, tutoring and transport to social and concert venues during the residential course and concert period.

A limited **Bursary Fund** is available for musicians who are in genuine financial need however we expect that you apply to your local council, school, college, local business or one of the many Trusts and Foundations that offer student bursaries before applying to the UYO Bursary Fund. Email manager@uyo.org.uk for further details.

**What if I have something else planned during the residency?**

You must be available for all of the rehearsal residency and performances however absence for exam results, urgent appointments or on religious grounds will be permitted at the discretion of the General Manager. Written requests should be made in advance, where possible.

**GDPR**

We ensure all application and bursary forms received will be kept electronically and physically safe. Application forms from all candidates will be securely disposed of 12 months after the application deadline. Bursary forms will be securely disposed of 12 months after the completion of the funders’ reports.

**Policies**

**Disability Policy**

The Ulster Youth Orchestra welcomes applications from disabled young musicians who satisfy the usual criteria for application to audition. A musician who wins a place in the orchestra will not be omitted because of that disability. The orchestra will use its best endeavours to ensure that a disabled member of the orchestra can take as full a part as possible in all its activities: not just participation in performances, but in social activities also.

**Complaints Policy**

A copy of our complaints policy is available upon request.

**Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk**

A copy of our Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy is available on our website.