



Audition Guidelines

How to apply

Apply using the online application form on the UYO website (www.uyo.org.uk/howtojoin)

A non-refundable audition registration fee of £25 is required before an audition can be scheduled. Payments can be made online through the UYO website.

CRITERIA

Age

Applicants must be aged between 14 & 23 on 8th August 2024.

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.

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 2024 repertoire.

The audition

Auditions will be live and in person only and on these dates:

Strabane - Saturday 16th December 2023

Belfast – Sunday 17th December 2023

Belfast – Monday 18th December 2023

Your audition time and excerpts will be sent out beforehand.

What to play

Candidates will be required to play two contrasting pieces of their own choice and a selection of prepared orchestral excerpts.

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.

Auditions are strictly unaccompanied.

Percussion

Percussion candidates are asked to play two contrasting pieces – one on xylophone and one on either snare drums **or** timpani.

The panel (all candidates)

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 will be released by the end of January 2024.

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 2024 membership is £545. This represents less than 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.