



YOW 2026 Information and Audition Instructions

Auditions for YOW 2026 are to be recorded and submitted (the recording link to be pasted into the box) via the online [YOW Audition Registration Form](#) DEADLINE **5pm, Wednesday, 10 December 2025.**

All applicants need to submit an **audio recording** (no video recordings will be accepted as this is an anonymous audition process).

Your audio recording needs to include the following:

a) a solo piece.

b) the attached orchestral excerpts click on link [YOW Orchestral Excerpts](#)

Please observe tempo markings and bowings where indicated. We also recommend that you listen to recordings of the works on the audition list to help you hear and understand the excerpts in context. You may wish to get advice from your teacher. If you play a transposing instrument, make sure you observe the correct transposition.

Make sure that the recording itself demonstrates the highest possible audio quality so that your performance can be evaluated fairly.

Recording Specifications:

- Please label your audio file with the following format:

Instrument_LastName_FirstName.

- You may record individual excerpts in separate takes. However, your audition must be submitted as one file (i.e. you will need to combine separate recording files together and submit it as one file)
- No editing to fix bad notes
- Do not electronically alter a recording (except for combining individual excerpt recordings into one file)
- Do not identify yourself in any way or speak on the audio recording
- Do not leave recording your audition to the last minute
- Always keep an extra copy of your audition recording in case there are problems along the way.

Please contact youth@orchestras.org.nz if you have any concerns.



String section leader positions – for those wanting to be considered for a string leadership role, please tick the box on the registration form and record, the violin, or viola or cello excerpts **and** the section leader corresponding instrument excerpts. After the first audition, selected students will be invited to a second in person audition date TBA early 2026

Concerto soloists – for those wanting to be considered as a concerto soloist, please play the full movement of the concerto you would like to perform as your solo piece and click the box on the audition registration form. Selected students will be invited to a second in-person audition, date TBA early 2026.

Uploading - either:

1. upload your recording to a file-sharing website (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive) and set the privacy of the link to '**anyone with this link can view**' so we can see it.

OR

2. upload your recording to a sharing website (e.g. Youtube or Vimeo) and set to '**unlisted**'
Go to www.youtube.com
Sign in or create an account
Click Upload
Set privacy setting to 'unlisted' (this is very important)
Upload your audition recording
3. **Copy and paste the audio link into your online registration form.**

Auditions will be judged on the following points: tone, intonation, style, rhythm, musicality, confidence, and preparation. If you have any questions, please email youth@orchestras.org.nz

YOW Information

Youth Orchestra Waikato draws upon young musicians from throughout the Waikato. The orchestra caters for young people in the 13-25 age range, although exceptions will be made in certain circumstances. The orchestra rehearses on Friday nights 6.30 - 9.00pm during the secondary school term at the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts (GAPA), University of Waikato. The orchestra works on four programmes a year.

The YOW Conductors are Athena Shiu, with Associate Conductor Catherine Polglase. They are assisted by an expert team of tutors who are involved in rehearsals and sectional workshops. The YOW Manager is Catherine Polglase and Robert Lummus is our Librarian.

Youth orchestra musicians can take part in other Orchestras Central activities as appropriate, and attend other Orchestras Central events.



Annual Subscription Fee

New Members

Secondary or middle school student or full-time waged \$400 incl GST and covers cost of YOW T-Shirt
Tertiary level student in full-time study \$200 incl GST and covers cost of YOW T-Shirt

Returning Members

Secondary or middle school student or full-time waged \$330 incl GST
Tertiary level student in full-time study \$165 incl GST

In cases of financial hardship please email support@orchestras.org.nz

YOW Dates 2026

Friday 13 February	First rehearsal
Friday 6 March - Sunday 8 March	Weekender at GAPA
Friday 27 March	Cambridge Autumn Festival concert
Friday 8 May	4.00pm – 6.00pm Side by Side with NZSO and James Judd on Waikato Regional Theatre stage 6.30pm YOW Dinner 7.30pm YOW attends NZSO Concert
Sunday 28 June	Concert
Saturday 29 August	YOW Big Jam session with Te Rauhihi, WCSM and YOW Academy
Friday 25 September	Schools Concert trip to Matamata
Late September (date TBC)	Concert
Saturday 5 December	Finale concert



YOW Goals and Expectations 2026

Conductors' Goals

1. Cultivate an encouraging, focused, collaborative environment for music making
2. Introduce and discuss practice tips and music-making processes
3. Reinforce rehearsal etiquette and expectations
4. Inspire players to explore musicality through musical contrast, soundscape, imagery, storytelling
5. Facilitate space to practice communication (verbal and nonverbal), leadership & ensemble skills

Player Expectations

Before and after rehearsal

- Attend rehearsals with **instrument(s), music parts, pencil**
- Communicate **in advance in writing** with valid reasons for any absences (not on the day!)
- You are expected to arrive at 6:30 pm to set up
- 6.40pm players are seated, warming up
- Please help with the pack down after rehearsal
- Tuning at 6:45 pm sharp (downbeat)

During rehearsal (Etiquette)

- No chit-chatting during rehearsal
- No phones and other distractions
- Be attentive, present, and sit with a healthy posture to facilitate the best playing possible
- Note down any changes **with a pencil** that have been mentioned during rehearsal
- End of break time is downbeat (If break ends at 8:00 pm, you are expected to sit down ready to tune at 8:00 pm sharp).
- Please tune your instrument with diligence and respect for other players.
- Be curious and open-minded when receiving feedback, and always attempt to make adjustments

Between rehearsals

- Make plans to incorporate focused, targeted practices for the orchestra repertoire
- Review music as much as possible through listening
- Brainstorm any questions you have throughout the week to bring to rehearsals
- Read the weekly emails, respond to requests and sign ups for events by the deadlines given.

Concerts and Events

- Be seated at least 15 mins before rehearsal/warm up starts
- Perform to the best of your ability



All YOW activity is smoke-free, alcohol and illicit-drug free

Audition Excerpts

[YOW Orchestral Excerpts](#)

Flute & piccolo:

Beethoven, Symphony No. 9, Movement IV, bars 343 to 374 (Piccolo)

Bizet, Carmen, Act 3, Movement IV

Dvořák, Symphony No. 8, Movement IV, bars 75-92

Oboe:

Stravinsky, The Firebird Suite (1919), Ronde des princesses, bars 47-52

Bizet, L'arlesienne No. 2, Movement IV: Farandole, letter D to bar 84 with repeats

Clarinet:

Beethoven, Symphony No. 7, Movement II, Figure D (with pickup) to 16 before E (Bars 101 - 134)

Mendelssohn, Symphony No. 3, Movement II, opening to Letter B

Bassoon:

Beethoven, Symphony No. 7, Movement II, bars 150- 173

Dukas, The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Scherzo from Sections 7 to 9, top line

Horn:

Beethoven, Symphony No. 7, Movement I, bars 84-110

Tchaikovsky, Symphony No. 4, Movement I, beginning to 6 measures after [A]

Trumpet:

Beethoven, Leonore Overture No. 2 offstage trumpet fanfare

Bizet, Carmen, Prelude to Act I, beginning until bar 28

Trombone:

Berlioz, Hungarian March bars 89-114

Saint-Saens, Symphony No. 3, solo from Q-S

Bass Trombone:

Berlioz, Hungarian March, bars 89-114

Schumann, Symphony No. 3, opening of Movement IV

Tuba:

Tchaikovsky, 1812 Overture, bars 59-71

Mendelssohn, A Midsummer Night's Dream Wedding March, from C to 24 bars after C

Violin:

Beethoven, Symphony 7, Movement 1, bars 83 – 138

Beethoven, Symphony 7, Movement 2, bars 51 - 100



Violin Section Leader:

Brahms, Symphony 4, Movement 1, figure L – M

Brahms, Symphony 4, Movement 2, figure B to 2 bars before C

Viola:

Beethoven, Symphony 7, Movement 2, bars 1 – 50

Mozart, Symphony 35, Movement 4, bars 134 – 181

Viola Section Leader:

Tchaikovsky, Polonaise from Eugene Onegin, figure B - C

Cello:

Beethoven, Symphony 7, Movement 1, bars 1 – after figure A 20 bars as marked

Beethoven, Symphony 7, Movement 1, figure H to pause

Beethoven, Symphony 7, Movement 2, 23 bars before figure G – bar after figure G

Cello Section Leader:

Rossini Guillaume Tell, Overture, bar 1 – Andante as marked.

Percussion:

Record either an example of piano or mallet percussion, or drumkit