YOW 2027 Information and Audition Instructions

Auditions for YOW 2027 are in-person and are being held on **Sunday 6 December 2026**, in the Playhouse, Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts, University of Waikato.

Audition process

1. Select an Audition Time fill your name and instrument
2. Fill in this YOW Audition Registration Form

On Sunday 6 December **arrive half an hour** before your audition time, warm up in the Playhouse Greenroom – directly behind the Playhouse Theatre.

The Audition will consist of

a) a solo piece - choose a piece that demonstrates your current level of ability

b) sightreading

c) for current YOW players you will also be asked to play an excerpt of Jenny McLeod's Three Celebrations. Cellos wishing to be considered for Principal or Associate Principal positions will be asked to play the Cello solo.

d) Percussionists: please submit a video featuring either snare or mallet playing by emailing your video link to youth@orchestras.org.nz

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.

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 2027

Friday 5 February	First rehearsal
Friday, Feb 26 - Sunday Feb 28	Weekender at GAPA
Friday 5 March - Sunday 7 March	Weekender at GAPA
Friday 13 March	Cambridge Autumn Festival Concert
Saturday 21 August	YOW Big Jam session with Te Rauhii, WCSM and YOW Academy
Saturday 29 August	Combined TWSO and YOW Whanau Concert
Sunday 5 December	Finale concert

YOW Goals and Expectations 2027

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
- 6.40 pm, players are seated, and the concertmaster tunes the orchestra
- Please help with the pack down after rehearsal
- Downbeat at 6:45 pm sharp

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