

Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon **2023-2024 Concert Season Audition Process**

To determine placement and seating in the *Youth Symphony* (advanced group) and the *Youth Orchestra* (intermediate group), the YSSO must receive an audition video from all new musicians. Returning musicians for whom seating & placement are priorities must submit an audition video as well (see below). All musicians must complete and submit the Musician Contact Information form. Audition videos *and* forms must be submitted to the YSSO via e-mail between August 1 and August 22. Music excerpts and the fillable PDF form are on the website (yesso.org).

The music director/conductor and guest adjudicator(s) will meet after August 22 to review, assess, and discuss audition videos, placement, and seating. As per previous seasons, notification will be via regular mail.

Rehearsals begin Sunday, September 24. Rehearsals that day will be on an “early start” schedule. Registration, parent orientation, and volunteer recruitment will take place during rehearsals on Sunday, October 1.

Returning Musicians (three scenarios – please review)

- If you wish to play in the same YSSO group in which you played last season and seating is *not* a priority for you, you are invited to continue your participation. In this case, an audition video is not required. Send an e-mail to the YSSO (info@yesso.org) with your name, instrument, and a *completed* Musician Contact Information form between August 1 and August 22 to indicate your intent to participate. The fillable PDF form is posted on the YSSO website.
- If you wish to play in the same YSSO group as last season and seating *is* a priority for you, you must submit an audition video (with a 3-minute solo and either the *Youth Orchestra* or the *Youth Symphony* excerpt) and the *completed* Musician Contact Information form to the YSSO via e-mail between August 1 and August 22. Include the excerpt for the YSSO group in which you played last season. The excerpts and fillable PDF form are posted on the YSSO website.
- If you played in the *Youth Orchestra* last season and wish to be considered for the *Youth Symphony*, you must submit an audition video (with a 3-minute solo and the *Youth Symphony* excerpt) and the *completed* Musician Contact Information form to the YSSO via e-mail between August 1 and August 22. Be sure you include the *Youth Symphony* excerpt. The excerpts and fillable PDF form are posted on the YSSO website.

Percussion Musicians

Percussionists submit *only* a completed Musician Contact Information form to the YSSO via e-mail between August 1 and August 22. The music director/conductor will audition percussionists at a time to be determined.

New Musicians

Musicians who did not participate last season and are interested in participating during the 2023-2024 season, must submit a video audition (with a 3-minute solo and the required excerpt) and a *completed* Musician Contact Information form to the YSSO via e-mail (info@yesso.org) between August 1 and August 22. If you are unsure whether to audition for the *Youth Orchestra* (intermediate-level group) or the *Youth Symphony* (advanced-level group), review the excerpts and select the one that best reflects your skill level. Excerpts and the fillable PDF form are on the YSSO website. **NOTE:** Musicians and families new to the YSSO may contact the YSSO executive director (info@yesso.org) for guidance or if questions arise. Questions related to music, the excerpt(s), or *Youth Symphony* or *Youth Orchestra* skill levels should be directed to Cynthia Hutton, music director & conductor (hutton@sou.edu).

Audition Video Content & Format

The audition video (single MP4/MPEG4 file) must include the following (in the order listed):

1. solo (*unaccompanied*) piece of *no more than* three (3) minutes in length; and
2. required excerpt (*unaccompanied*) for your instrument (available on the YSSO website).

No scale(s).

NOTE: MP4 is a universally compatible file format that works on a variety of devices. MP4 is the digital container file and MPEG-4 is the standard for encoding the video content within MP4 files. MP4s have smaller file sizes while maintaining high video/audio quality.

2023-2024 Concert Season Audition Videos

Set-Up/Recording, Instructions, File Format/Size, Script, Submission

Audition videos and Musician Contact Information forms must be submitted to the YSSO via e-mail (info@yosso.org) between August 1 and August 22.

Please read the following instructions concerning camera placement, sound level, video file format and size, solo and music excerpt introductions, prohibition on editing/manipulation.

Tune your instrument before recording your solo and the required excerpt. Review the recording prior to submission. Title the file as required (see below).

Musicians submitting an audition video must send a completed Musician Contact Information form to the YSSO via e-mail (info@yosso.org) *with* the audition video file.

Set-Up & Recording

- ✓ Record your audition video using a smartphone, webcam, or video camera. If you use a smartphone, be sure it is in the “landscape” orientation (horizontal/wide frame) and situated securely on a stable/flat surface.
- ✓ The music director/conductor and adjudicator(s) must be able to view your face, posture, body, full range of motion, instrument, technique, fingerings, bow, embouchure, etc. *Do not block the view with a music stand.* Strings (violin/viola) need to be seen either from the side or (cello/bass) at a 45% (minimum) angle from the right side of the instrument so the music director/conductor and adjudicator(s) can view playing positions. Woodwinds and brass should be viewed straight on and show the whole instrument, embouchure, and fingers. Brass players should not point the bell directly at the microphone.
- ✓ Verify the microphone is unobstructed and check sound levels to ensure the recording will not be distorted or inaudible.

Instructions, Introduction Protocol, Script

- ▶ At the beginning of the video, state your name and instrument: “My name is _____ and I am auditioning on the _____.”
- ▶ Introduce the title of your solo work and the name of the composer: “The title of the solo piece I will be playing is _____ by _____.” Play and record your 3-minute solo piece. Hit pause.
- ▶ State the YSSO group and the instrument excerpt you will play: “I will be playing the *Youth Symphony* _____ excerpt” or “I will be playing the *Youth Orchestra* _____ excerpt.” Play and record the excerpt.
- ▶ After recording your solo and excerpt, save/title the file: **INSTRUMENT_LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME**
- ▶ Listen to your recording to assess sound levels, clarity, etc. before submitting the audition video.
- ▶ Record/save your solo and excerpt in a *single* MP4/MPEG4 file. The file cannot exceed 4MB.
- ▶ Remember to complete and send a Musician Contact Information form with your audition video.