

AUDITION GUIDE

2027 Auditions | How to prepare and record

Every place in TIYO is decided from a recorded audition. That works in your favour. You choose the room, the day and the take, and you send the one you are happiest with. This guide explains what to send, how to prepare it and how to record it so the panel hears you at your best.

The standard we expect is around Grade 7 and above, but nothing is decided on a certificate. The panel decides on what it hears.

1. Submission requirements

A completed application form, which includes your video links and the \$1,000 application fee.

- **Own choice piece.** One video. Any solo work or single movement, three to five minutes. Every instrument except Timpani and Percussion.
- **Excerpts.** A second video. Download the booklet for your instrument from tiyo.org/auditions and prepare every excerpt in it.
- **Timpani and Percussion.** No own choice piece. Prepare the Required Piece and the whole excerpt set. Record the items on whatever instruments you can get access to, and submit them as separate videos gathered into one unlisted playlist. The panel is assessing your technique, musicianship and rhythm, not the quality of your instruments or your room.
- **Auxiliary instruments and concertmaster.** One further video, if you are preparing either. Auxiliary excerpts (piccolo, cor anglais and the like) and the optional violin concertmaster excerpts each go in their own video, and neither affects your standard audition.

Memorisation is not required and does not affect your score.

Every video must be **Unlisted**, not Private. A private video cannot be opened by the panel, and an audition we cannot watch cannot be assessed. Test your own links before you submit them.

2. Planning your preparation

- **Early.** Choose your own choice piece with your teacher and start the excerpts slowly. Notes, rhythm, dynamics and articulation from the first session, not added later.
- **Middle.** Play the whole audition to somebody once a week. A teacher, a parent, a friend, anyone who will sit still.
- **Last few weeks.** Record full run-throughs in the audition order, without stopping to fix things. You need to check your stamina.

3. Choosing your own choice piece

- Pick something you already know well and can play well under pressure.
- An easier piece played cleanly beats a harder piece played roughly.
- Three to five minutes. If you record longer, you will not be penalised, but the panel may not listen beyond the five minute mark.
- Own choice pieces should be unaccompanied. No accompanist or backing track.
- Choose your own choice piece in consultation with your teacher. They will know what shows you at your best.

4. Preparing the excerpts

Know the piece, not just your line

- Listen to two or three recordings of the whole movement before you practise the passage. Many recordings on YouTube run with the score on screen, which shows you what is happening around you.
- Find out whether your line is a solo, a doubling or an accompaniment. It changes how you play it.

Rhythm first

- Rushing and an unsteady pulse are the fastest way for a good player to score badly.
- Work with a metronome, then switch it off and play the same passage again.

Tempo

- The tempo markings in the booklet are a guide, not a test. Choose a tempo you can hold with clean articulation and even passagework.
- Set the tempo, key and character in your head before you play the first note of each excerpt. Do not jump straight from one excerpt into the next.

Detail

- Play as printed. Observe the dynamics, the articulation and the rests. Do not add repeats.
- Stop where the excerpt tells you to stop. The stopping point is printed on the page and marked in the music.
- Practise the gap between excerpts, including turning the page. It is part of the recording.

5. Recording requirements

A phone is fine. Thousands of successful auditions are recorded on phones. What matters is that nothing in the recording gets between your playing and the panel.

The room

- Avoid a small room full of hard surfaces, which smears everything into an echo. A rug, a curtain or an open wardrobe absorbs enough to help.
- Turn off fans or anything else with loud background noise. Put the phone in aeroplane mode so no notification lands in the middle of an excerpt.

The sound

- Audio matters more than picture. Judge every test recording on headphones, not the phone speaker.
- If you record with a separate microphone, do not put the microphone right next to your instrument. A few metres back gives a truer sound. Try a few different locations to get the sound that is the best reflection of your playing.
- Listen for distortion in the loudest bars. If it crackles at the peak, you are too close.

The picture

- Landscape orientation, 720p or better, camera resting on a tripod or a stable surface. No panning, no zooming, no second camera, no fades.
- Frame yourself so your hands, your instrument and your bow or embouchure are all visible, and your stand is not blocking you.
- Face your light source. If a window is behind you, you become a silhouette.
- Wear something neat and casual. Concert dress is not expected.

The take

- No editing, splicing or effects. Each video is one continuous take.

- Tune before you press record.
- Begin each recording by stating your name and the instrument you are applying for.

6. Uploading and submitting

Upload to YouTube, set each video to **Unlisted**, and paste the links into your application form. Unlisted means only someone with the link can watch it. It will not appear in search or on your channel.

On a computer

- Sign in at youtube.com or studio.youtube.com, click Create, then Upload video, and choose your file.
- Name each video: Surname Firstname, Instrument, Own choice or Excerpts, TIYO 2027.
- Answer No when asked whether it is made for kids.
- At Visibility, choose Unlisted. Not Private. Save, then copy the link.

On a phone

- Open the YouTube app, tap the + button and choose to upload a video, then select your recording and tap Next.
- Set Visibility to Unlisted, answer the made for kids question, and tap Upload.
- Once it has finished, open it under Your Videos and copy the link from the share option.

YouTube moves these buttons around from time to time. If your screen does not match, look for the word Visibility and set it to Unlisted.

- Before you submit, open your own links in a private browsing window, or send them to a friend. If they can watch them, so can we.
- Paste the links into the application form at tiyo.org.

7. What the panel is listening for

Rhythm and a steady pulse. Intonation. Sound quality. Musical shape and a sense of style. Control at the tempo you have chosen. And whether you sound like somebody who has listened to the music, rather than somebody reading it off the page.

Nobody is expecting a flawless recording. A small slip in an otherwise musical, well prepared audition is insignificant.

8. Before you press submit

- ☐ Every excerpt for my instrument, in the printed order
- ☐ Own choice piece, three to five minutes (not required for Timpani and Percussion)
- ☐ Each video is one continuous take, no editing
- ☐ Landscape, 720p or better, camera still throughout
- ☐ Audio clear, no distortion in the loud bars, no background noise
- ☐ Every video set to Unlisted, and I have tested the links myself
- ☐ Links pasted into the application form, and the \$1,000 application fee paid

Questions about the excerpts, the requirements or the process: admin@tiyo.org

Excerpt booklets and full audition requirements: tiyo.org/auditions

Prepare well, record early, and send us your best playing. We are looking forward to hearing you.