

Dunedin Symphony Orchestra Guidelines to Auditionees

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for the DSO. These guidelines will hopefully give you the background information you need in preparing for them. The audition will consist of two sections: firstly, works of your own choice; and secondly the orchestral extracts that we provide (available usually 4 weeks before the auditions).

Please prepare the orchestral excerpts thoroughly. In an orchestra, it is especially important to have everyone playing the correct notes with the correct rhythm. So in your preparation, please pay special attention to these two aspects. Tone, style, accuracy of speed, technical facility etc are also important, but too often auditionees let themselves down by rushing, by mis-counting long notes, by mis-counting rests, or by simply playing the wrong notes (be especially careful about accidentals).

In preparing works of your own choice, choose two works that together total four minutes (they can be whole works, movements, or extracts from movements), and they should contrast each other in speed and/or style: e.g. classical or baroque vs. romantic or modern. They should be of diploma standard (e.g. LTCL) or equivalent. Please could you provide **three copies** of the works of your own choice for the panel's use during the audition. If the works you choose have long periods of rests, it is acceptable to shorten the rest period to as short a time as convenient. This is true too for the orchestral extracts – long period of bars of rest can be shortened to just one or two bars. Another point regarding the extracts: please do not play the repeats.

Please note that the audition panel may at any stage ask you to stop playing a work or extract, so don't take this to be a reflection on your playing. There is always a time constraint in auditions, so the panel does not have sufficient time to hear everyone play everything.

If you would like to have piano accompaniment with the works for your own choice, a piano is available. However, you need to provide your own accompanist. Please could you let me know one week before your audition if you plan to have an accompanist – then we will ensure the piano is tuned before the audition.

The auditions will be held behind screens. The purpose of this is for players to be anonymous. Please try not to speak once you are in the audition room so that your anonymity can be maintained. A warm-up room will be arranged. Once you arrive at Hanover Hall, please follow the signs to this room. The auditions themselves will be held in the DSO hall. If for any reason you need to cancel your audition (or part of an audition, e.g. the piccolo section for flute players), could you please let me know as soon as possible so that the schedule can be re-adjusted. It is not too late to let me know on audition day. The DSO's phone number is: 477-5623.

After the audition, we send out a letter advising you of the result. We usually include a summary of the panel's comments as these can be especially useful to indicate areas where the panel feels there could be improvement. Because of this, and depending on the workload associated with concerts around the time of the auditions, these reports can take some time to finalise. We aim to send the reports out as soon as is possible, but no later than six weeks after the auditions.

Good luck with your preparations.

Philippa Harris
General Manager