



Audition Information

2024/2025

Why join NYOI?

Get ready to experience something amazing with the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland!

By becoming a member, you'll step into a vibrant community of young musicians who are just as passionate about music as you are. Picture yourself learning from Ireland's top musicians, making lifelong friends, discovering new places, and exploring incredible music together. It's not just about playing—it's about sharing your passion with others who truly understand it.

You'll be welcomed into a musical family where everyone looks out for each other, supports each other, and creates a space where everyone belongs. And the best part? You'll have a hand in shaping this exciting, inclusive, and inspiring musical journey with the best young musicians in Ireland.

Who can be in The Orchestra?

Am I eligible?

- To be eligible to participate in NYOI auditions in October 2024, musicians must have
 - Turned 12 years old by 1st September 2024
 - Not have reached their 21st birthday by 31st July 2025
- Musicians who may be outside these age requirements but took part in our 2023/24 orchestral season are eligible to apply.
- Have an Irish connection: Born on the island of Ireland, living/studying in Ireland, or have an Irish family link.
- In limited circumstances, musicians who are younger than 12 y/o may apply to audition providing a letter/email from their instrumental teacher is sent to NYOI in advance of applying. Following the review of this letter, they will be then given the approval to apply.
- Members may from time to time join the course as part of Youth Orchestra exchange programmes or at invitation of the Board as deemed necessary.

Am I of the right standard?

If you play your instrument at an advanced level of technical proficiency and musicianship, we want to hear from you. There is no need to have taken graded music exams. If you are unsure, speak to your teacher, have a look and listen to the orchestral

excerpts required for audition, and if you feel confident playing these, even at a slightly slower tempo, we would love to hear you audition.

What is the commitment?

- NYOI is a national team and each and every musician plays a big role on and off the performance stage. If you are successful and are offered the place you are expected to play this part fully.
- NYOI musicians make a yearlong commitment, with projects mainly structured around school holidays and some weekends. Throughout the season you may be involved in digital meet ups/projects, online zoom sectionals, in-person workshops, rehearsals on residencies, NYOI local chamber music projects, and side by side professional immersion projects with professional orchestras. Depending on repertoire, instrumentation and forces required not all musicians will be involved in all projects.
- All players must commit to adhere to the Players' Code of Behaviour (NYOI Child Protection Policy and Procedures).

What is the cost of auditioning for NYOI?

- The cost of auditioning for NYOI is €25 and we offer free feedback if requested.
- Prior to the audition season we provide audition training workshops where you will be given expert training by professional orchestral musicians about how best to prepare for audition.

What is the cost of a place in The Orchestra?

- The cost of running the NYOI is huge and the orchestra over €2,000 every year on each and every musician.
- For the 2024/25 season we are asking each musician to contribute €900. This fee only covers the cost of food and accommodation for the residential courses.
- We ask you to make your contribution at the beginning of the season which enables us to plan and widen the scope of opportunities we can offer each musician.
- A six-month instalment plan is also available, alongside bursary schemes for those who the level of contribution may be out of reach.
- Participants over the age of 18 may decide to make alternative accommodation arrangements over the course of the residencies. If this is the case, please contact us regarding the waiving some or all of the registration fee.

How do I apply?

To apply for NYOI, please complete an online application on the NYOI website, by Friday 20th September 2024. **Take time to apply yourself.** There are sections which require you to give a list of your orchestral experience and musical achievements. It's important that what you want the audition panel to see is included.

NYOI audition days are extremely busy and musicians not turning up can cause considerable delay to the schedule. If you do not turn up at your allotted time **without prior notice**, or without a valid medical reason on the day, you will not be allowed to audition for NYOI this season.

What does the audition timeline look like?

Applications open	Monday 19 th August.
Application deadline	Friday 20 th September.
Audition training workshops:	28 th and 29 th September.
Auditions	11 th Oct: Omagh. * 12 th & 13 th Oct: Dublin. 18 th & 19 th Oct: Cork. 20 th Oct: Galway.
Results:	End of October.

**pending enough applicants*

What music do I need to perform?

For your audition there is a brand new **2024/25 audition pack** for each instrument available to download on the NYOI website. For String, Woodwind and Brass you will need to prepare a solo piece and the relevant orchestral excerpts. For Percussion there are excerpts on Timpani, Snare and Xylophone to prepare.

Solo Piece

For your own choice solo piece it is important to highlight what you are capable of as a musician: your technical proficiency, your musicianship, perhaps something that shows contrasting material but most importantly show the panel why you love to play. Your piece must be performed unaccompanied but doesn't need to have been written as an unaccompanied work.

Excerpts

The orchestral excerpts are in varying styles and degrees of difficulty. Orchestral excerpts are an essential part of your audition and have been chosen by NYOI instrumental tutors so that you can demonstrate your exploration and understanding of orchestral playing. While they may not seem as interesting as your own choice piece, your performance of the excerpts helps the audition panel understand your approach to music-making and assess your knowledge of orchestral repertoire. Look carefully at all the tempo, dynamic and articulation markings, and consider them when preparing each excerpt. Any metronome markings are provided only as an indication. Aim for accuracy, beauty of sound, precise rhythm, and good intonation. The excerpts help the audition panel to establish how players of differing standards address the musical challenges in the same repertoire and can help to seat players in the orchestra.

Our top tips for preparing.

- To prepare the excerpts to the best of your ability, take the time to find out some background about each work. It is important to listen to a recording(s) of the orchestral work from which the excerpt has been taken. Not only will this make it more interesting for you when preparing the excerpts, but it will help you in understanding the style in which it is usually performed.
- The excerpts are of varying difficulty. Please do your best to prepare the excerpts. Less experienced applicants should not be disheartened by a difficult excerpt-- play it slower if necessary and make sure to show off your musical ability.
- It is important that you understand the orchestral context of the excerpts; what instruments are playing at the same time, are you the melody or accompaniment etc. Work on the excerpts with your teacher, or other musicians you know just as you would your pieces. Practice playing them at different tempos and perhaps with different articulations and bowings.
- Practice your audition in front of friends and family. Practice walking in, playing your solo piece and then your excerpts. The five minutes goes very fast and the more familiar you are with what you are expected to do during the five minutes the more chance you have of success!

Wind Auxiliary instruments

- Wind instruments are strongly encouraged to also audition on their respective doubling instruments; Piccolo, Cor anglais, Eb clarinet, Bass Clarinet and Contrabassoon. Wind auxiliary auditions will need to prepare an additional set of excerpts contained in the excerpt pack. An own choice piece **is not** required for auxiliary instruments.

At the audition.

Audition venues

- Make sure to arrive at the audition in plenty of time. Bring rosin, mutes, extra strings, spare reeds as needed.
- A member of the NYOI welfare staff will greet you and show you to a warm up room.
- **Only audition candidates are allowed in warm up rooms/audition area, parents/guardians must not enter these locations.**
- It is important that you warm up, tune your instrument and relax before going into the audition. In some venues an individual warm up rooms are available, in other venues it might be a room with many musicians warming up at once.
- An NYOI staff member will come to get you approximately 5 mins in advance of your audition.

Who will be on the audition panel?

- The audition will be conducted by an expert auditioner hired by the Board of the NYOI to conduct all auditions.

Also in the room

- A member of the NYOI welfare staff (normally the orchestra manager) will sit on auditions.
- The NYOI General manager may from time to time sit in on auditions.

Leadership auditions

- For leadership auditions the main auditioner will be joined by one or more musicians with experience of being a concertmaster/leader. Every effort will be made to announce the audition panel for leadership auditions as far in advance as possible.

All applicants are only allowed to audition on each instrument once only.

- For musicians presenting a doubling instrument (e.g.: Flute/Piccolo), you only need to apply online once.

What happens after the auditions?

- **The NYOI audition panel's decision in player selection is final.** Any attempt to contact the audition panel or influence the outcome of auditions will disqualify an applicant.
- If you are lucky to be offered a place in The Orchestra, you will be asked to confirm your commitment to taking part in all NYOI residential courses, tour dates and performances.
- **Performance at audition will be the method which professional immersion programmes/side by side projects, culture night performances, additional chamber music etc will be chosen.**
- A provisional list of string seating will be created following audition however this is subject to change following sectionals at residential courses or other seating exercises that may occur.
- For wind, brass and percussion seating, extra smaller auditions may take place during the first sectional of each residential course at the tutors discretion.
- At the discretion of the conductor, seating rotation may occur. Similarly reduced numbers for concertos maybe required if the necessary musical balance between soloist and orchestra is not achieved.
- All auditions must be completed during the audition window. There is no facility for late auditions to take place due to illness.
- In exceptional circumstances previous members of The Orchestra who are unable to present for audition due to illness may submit a letter of application to the board of the NYOI accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a teacher for review. **This will be dealt with on a case by case basis and does not mean the application will be successful.**

What if I am unsuccessful?

- Each year hundreds of young musicians of the highest calibre audition for NYOI, as a result only a small number of musicians are successful. The number of musicians needed will depend on the repertoire planned for the 2024/25 season. As a result, there are much fewer places for woodwind, brass and percussion players than strings.
- Feedback for all auditions is available from NYOI.

- If you are not offered a place this time, but will still be eligible next year, we hope you will continue to enjoying playing music and will apply again.

Reserve list

- A list of reserve members for all instruments is formed from which players will be contacted if for some reason a musician needs to drop out. This can often be at very short notice.

But I was a member previously.

- Previous membership in the orchestra does not automatically entitle you to a place in the orchestra. Unfortunately, each year some NYOI musicians are unsuccessful in reapplying. **In no way is this a reflection on how you performed on the NYOI previously.** The standard of performing at audition is the sole benchmark for membership in the orchestra.