

# Student Orchestral Workshops – Recorded Auditions Guide

## Room/Space Considerations

Before you start your recording, consider the room you would like to record in:

Does it give a nice, natural resonance to your instruments' sound?

- Avoid any space that is either too booming or loud or one where the acoustic of the room is dull and lifeless.

Will you have privacy and the ability to focus?

- Minimize all visual and audio distractions. For example, other people coming and going from the room or outside noises like construction, wildlife or traffic.

## Camera Selection and Positioning

There are a wide range of options to choose when recording orchestral auditions, however for the purposes of the Sydney Symphony's *Student Orchestral Workshops*, using a smartphone capable of filming with audio to record your audition will suffice.

Ideally the recording device will be placed approximately to the height of your chest and at least 1 – 2 meters away from the instrument. Too close (and without professional recording equipment) you will risk the sound distorting with a harsher sound. Too far away and you risk a distant, washed-out tone that may also pick up other sounds from the environment.

Make sure you run some tests before beginning the final take to find out what suits your instrument and room best.

It is very important for the video to capture your full body with as much clarity of your arms and hands as possible to best showcase your technique. For woodwind and brass, it is especially important that we can clearly see your embouchure. Ensure that the lighting gives a clear and bright image of yourself playing.

## Video Requirements

For a total playing time of around 3 minutes, perform music of your own choice demonstrating two contrasting styles. This could be all or part of 1 work or chosen from 2 pieces. Unaccompanied works are acceptable, as are studies and etudes. In addition to your chosen pieces, you must also play a scale and arpeggio appropriate to your playing level. You may wish to refer to your Grade syllabus or ask your teacher.

*Note: If you are applying on two instruments, for example piccolo AND flute, then you will need to submit the above audition requirements for both instruments.*

We request that the audition be recorded in one take with no additional editing to be made to the final recording file, apart from trimming the beginning and end of the clip to save duration and file size.

### Uploading Your Audition Video

The most effective method for you to share your audition video with the Sydney Symphony is to upload the video to YouTube as an **'unlisted'** video.

**'Unlisted'** means your video will not come up in search results or on your channel either. Only those who know the link can view it, and you can share the link with anyone. **Please note if your video is set to 'private', we will be unable to view your video.**

The first step is to ensure you have a Gmail account that you can access to set up your YouTube channel. A Gmail Account lets you use many YouTube features including Like, Subscribe, Watch Later, and Watch History.

1. Go to [YouTube](#).
2. In the top right, click Sign in.
3. Click Create Account.
4. Choose For myself.
5. Follow the prompts to finalize setting up your channel.

Now that you have your YouTube account set up...

#### Step 1: Make Sure You're Logged In

Check that you're signed into the Gmail account that is connected to your YouTube channel first.

#### Step 2: Go to 'Create'

When on YouTube, click on the button to the top right of the screen next to your profile picture and select 'Create'.

#### Step 3: Click 'Upload Video'

You can then choose a video file to upload, either by dragging and dropping it or choosing "select files."

#### Step 4: Fill in the Details

You will be asked to add some information about your video, including the title and description.

#### Step 5: Set to 'Unlisted'

YouTube has three privacy options for video content. These are public, unlisted, and private.

Public videos can be seen and searched by anyone.

Unlisted videos can be viewed by people who have the link but won't be visible in a YouTube search or Google search.

Private videos are completely private, and only visible to you.

For ease, we recommend listing your video as 'unlisted'.

In the 'visibility' section, choose 'unlisted' to make your video visible only to those you allow access to with the special link.

#### Step 6: Share Your Unlisted Video

On your YouTube channel, click 'content' to view your videos. Once your video is set to 'unlisted', click on the three dots next to the video and click 'get shareable link'.

Paste this email in the Smartsheet audition form.