

2025 Ensemble Program Auditions

MELBOURNE YOUTH BIG BAND
MELBOURNE YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

HORN SECTION

1. Two own choice pieces (to a maximum of 2 minutes per piece) from the following options:
 - Two Jazz standards of contrasting styles (expected for those auditioning for MYJO) or;
 - One Jazz standard and One piece in a jazz style

The pieces chosen should best reflect your current abilities on your instrument. We encourage you to avoid harmonically complex chord progressions and select standards/pieces that showcase your strengths.

2. Improvisation over the chords of your chosen standard. (This should be of an appropriate level to your current abilities on your chosen instrument and can include an embellishment of the melody.) Please bring two copies of the concert pitch lead sheet of your standards to your audition. The improvisation will be accompanied by a backing track provided by the auditioning student.
3. Two major scales (one scale in a sharp key of your choice and one in a flat key of your choice) and their relative harmonic minor scales. (4 scales in total)
4. Sight-reading appropriate to the level of the ensembles. To be supplied during the audition.

RHYTHM SECTION

1. Two own choice pieces (to a maximum of 2 minutes per piece) from the following options:
 - Two Jazz standards of contrasting styles (expected for those auditioning for MYJO) or;
 - One Jazz standard and One piece in a jazz style

The pieces chosen should best reflect your current abilities on your instrument. We encourage you to avoid harmonically complex chord progressions and select standards/pieces that showcase your strengths.

2. Improvisation over the chords of your chosen standard. (This should be of an appropriate level to your current abilities on your chosen instrument and can include an embellishment of the melody.) Please bring two copies of the concert pitch lead sheet of your standards to your audition. The improvisation will be accompanied by a backing track provided by the auditioning student.
3. Melodic Instruments: Two major scales (one scale in a sharp key of your choice and one in a flat key of your choice) and their relative harmonic minor scales. (4 scales in total)
4. Drummers: Be prepared to demonstrate swing (in 4 and in 3- Jazz waltz), Funk, Bossa-Nova, and 6/8 AfroCuban drum patterns.
5. Sight-reading appropriate to the level of the ensembles. To be supplied during the audition.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Your audition is to be accompanied by a backing track supplied by mobile device (i.e., Phone or iPad) brought by the auditionee.
- You are required to source your own backing track/s. Live accompaniment is not permitted.
- A Bluetooth speaker with auxiliary connections will be provided and set up prior to the audition commencing. **USB will not be accepted** and there will not be a computer available to access online content.
- Mobile devices **MUST be on airplane/silent mode** for the entire duration of the audition.
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your audition time.
- Your audition will last approximately 10 minutes.
- Due to time constraints, you may be asked to stop playing before you reach the end of your own choice works.
- Any audition requirements not prepared will result in an incomplete assessment of the applicants' suitability for the ensemble.
- The same audition requirements apply for Melbourne Youth Jazz Orchestra and Melbourne Youth Big Band.