



Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras Audition FAQs

Am I eligible to audition?

FSYO accepts students based on talent, maturity, and commitment. FSYO students are serious about committing to the study of music through weekly rehearsal and pre-professional concert experiences. Though the FSYO Board of Directors and the FSYO Music Director do make exceptions, the majority of FSYO students are between the ages of 9 and 20, participate in a school music program, where available, and work with a private teacher.

How do I choose which ensemble to audition?

FSYO has set age guidelines for each ensemble. If you are at an age group that is shared by multiple ensembles, we suggest downloading the music selections for each ensemble you are applying for and taking those music selections to a private instructor for guidance. The majority of FSYO students fit into the following age groups:

- Overture Strings: Students ages 9 to 12
- Prelude Orchestra: Students ages 10 to 15
- Sinfonia Orchestra: Student ages 11 to 16
- Philharmonia Orchestra: Students ages 12 to 18
- Symphonic Orchestra: Students ages 14 to 20
- Percussion Ensemble: Students ages 13 to 20
- Joseph Wise Jazz Band: Students ages 12 to 18
- Alphonse Carlo Jazz Band: Students ages 14 to 20

Can I observe an FSYO rehearsal?

Rehearsals are only open to students in the ensembles, conductors, and FSYO staff, but we offer an open rehearsal every season for prospective students. Dates will be posted to the FSYO website and FSYO social media.

What does it cost to be in FSYO?

There is an annual membership tuition to participate in FSYO. For current membership tuition, please visit the page of the ensemble for which you are auditioning. FSYO has a strong commitment to the community and will never refuse a student the opportunity to participate because of an inability to pay the membership tuition. Please contact the office for scholarship and payment plan opportunities.

Is FSYO a big time commitment?

Membership in FSYO is membership on a highly successful team. As each student plays a unique role in their instrument section, each individual's contribution must be top-notch for the team to properly function. Students are required to attend each rehearsal and concert, and they are expected to come to weekly rehearsals prepared to perform. In addition to weekly FSYO rehearsals, students should meet weekly with a private instrument instructor. FSYO students are successful when their family is supportive of their students and encourages daily practice.

When are the auditions held?

Auditions are held each spring for the next season, which begins in August.

Where are the auditions held?

Auditions are held in Orlando, FL. The exact location varies.

What are the audition requirements?

All students auditioning will need to prepare the specific excerpt for the ensemble for which they are auditioning, as well as a one-minute solo of their choice and required scales, as listed. This material can be found on our website.

What is the audition music?

There is different audition music for each instrument in each ensemble. Please decide which ensemble you'd like to audition for, then download the appropriate music for your instrument within your chosen ensemble. If you are at an age group that is shared by multiple ensembles, we suggest downloading the music selections for each ensemble you are applying for and taking those music selections to a private instructor for guidance.

Who will be in the audition room with me?

FSYO Conductors will be present during your audition. Auditions are closed to the public.

Do I need to submit an Audition Payment?

Yes. A non-refundable audition payment of \$35.00 must accompany the application. Applications will not be processed until the payment has been received. You can pay online here, [2024-2025 FSYO Audition Payment](#). Please be sure to put your student's name in the comment box.

Are there warm-up rooms once I arrive at the audition site?

Yes. There is one communal warm-up room.

When will I receive my audition time?

You will receive your audition time 2-3 weeks before your audition date. Please note that you will only receive your audition time once you have successfully registered and submitted the audition payment.

When should I arrive for my audition?

Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before your audition time. Look out for any possible traffic or weather delays.

What should I bring to my audition?

Please bring 3 copies of your solo piece for the judges. You do not need to bring copies of the excerpt that you print from the website.

Should I memorize the music for the audition?

If you would like to memorize your solos, you are more than welcome to do so; however, memorization is not required.

How long is the audition?

An average audition is 6 minutes long, though younger players may audition for a shorter time at the discretion of the audition panel. During your audition, you may be stopped by the panel and asked to go to another solo or excerpt. This request is common and does not reflect upon your performance.

What should I wear for the audition?

Wear nice clothes, in which you are comfortable performing, and keep in mind that this time is the first impression you will make on those who will evaluate you. It is also a good idea to practice in the clothes and shoes you are planning to wear for your audition at least one time.

Is parking available for auditions?

Free parking will be provided on-site.

When will I find out if I have been accepted?

All auditioning students will receive correspondence, regardless of the outcome, in June. There are a limited number of seats available in each ensemble, and an audition does not guarantee placement in FSYO. Acceptance and ensemble placement is a competitive, merit-based process in which auditionees must meet requirements for consideration.

For any questions, concerns or feedback, please feel free to contact the FSYO Office by phoning 407.999.7800, or by emailing info@fsyo.org.