

What are AYM Auditions Like?

We pride ourselves on our friendly and relaxed audition process which reflects our open-minded ethos – it's not an exam! Auditions are led by AYM staff and our trusted family of professional musicians. They have all been involved in auditions themselves and know what makes a positive experience.

Our auditions are designed to give you the time to showcase your potential and for us to get to know you, these will last for around 30 minutes.

On arrival we'll make sure you have all the time you need to settle into the space and perform confidently. We'll listen to you perform, workshop excerpts of music, ask you some questions, and you'll take part in a few musical exercises to give us an idea of your musicianship level. We may ask you to play some scales or follow a simple chord sequence to see if you have the right sort of technical knowledge and the instrumental ability to meaningfully engage in the activities we offer. We will also invite you to take part in a group musicianship/creative task with other young musicians auditioning to be a part of the programme.

We invite applicants to prepare two short contrasting pieces on their first study and offer the opportunity to perform an additional piece on your second study (if you have one). Regardless of the outcome of your audition, we will write to you with constructive feedback. We always enjoy meeting new applicants and want this to be a positive experience for you.

If you're not successful, we know it will be disappointing, but don't worry! We hope that the experience has been constructive and encourage you to take our feedback on board and apply again next year to show us how you've progressed. We always enjoy meeting young musicians who reapply and many applicants who haven't been successful the first-time round are often successful when they audition again.