



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 classical music through weekly rehearsal and pre-professional concert experiences. Though the FSYO Board of Directors and the FSYO Artistic Director do make exceptions, the majority of FSYO students are between the ages of 7 and 20, participate in a school music program, where available, and work with a private teacher.

How do I choose for which orchestra to audition?

FSYO has set age guidelines for each orchestra. If you are at an age group that is shared by multiple orchestras, we suggest downloading the music selections for each orchestra you're applying for and taking those music selections to a private instructor for guidance. The majority of FSYO students fit into the following age groups, though upon request, exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Board, in consultation with the conductor(s):

Overture Strings: Students ages 7 to 14

Prelude Orchestra: Students ages 9 to 15

Philharmonia Orchestra: Students ages 11 to 18

Symphonic Orchestra: Students ages 13 to 20

Jazz I Orchestra: Students ages 13 to 20

Jazz II Orchestra: Students ages 12 to 18

Can I observe an FSYO rehearsal?

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 are annual membership fees to participate in FSYO. For current membership fees, 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 fees. 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 his instrument section, each individual's contribution must be top-notch for the team to function properly. Students are required to attend each rehearsal and concert and 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 encouraging of 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 orchestra for which they are auditioning, as well as a one-minute solo of their choice and required scales, as listed.

What is the audition music?

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

Is there an audition fee?

Yes. A non-refundable audition fee of \$35.00 must accompany the application. Applications will not be processed until the fee has been received. You can pay online here, <http://mkt.com/fsyo/fsyo-audition-fee>, by clicking on FSYO Audition Fee (may not work in internet explorer). 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 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 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 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 positions available in each ensemble, and an audition does not guarantee placement in FSYO. Acceptance and orchestra 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.