



QUEENSLAND  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA  
CONNECT

# Young Instrumentalist Prize 2025

## Application Guidelines

Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO) is proud to present the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Young Instrumentalist Prize (YIP), a competition designed to encourage talented Queensland secondary school students along their music pathways. This competition has launched the performing dreams of many young musicians.

The competition is open to all Queensland secondary school students studying an orchestral instrument (including saxophone but not including keyboard instruments) at a level equivalent to AMEB Grade 8 or higher. Students from regional and remote Queensland are encouraged to apply. If selected for the Young Instrumentalist Prize Finalist Recital, travel costs for students whose primary residence is outside South East Queensland may be subsidised.

Applicants initially apply using an online form and pay the entry fee. Applicants will then be notified by Queensland Symphony Orchestra if they are successful and will be invited to submit a video audition and additional material. From these auditions, six finalists will be selected, along with the winner of the Brennan Keats OAM Violin Loan Prize. The six finalists will perform in person at the YIP Finalists' Recital: a public performance held at the QSO Studio in South Bank, Brisbane. A winner will be determined from this recital and will be given the opportunity to work with Queensland Symphony Orchestra in 2026. All six finalists will receive a combination of cash prizes and complimentary tickets to select QSO concerts of their choosing.

*The Young Instrumentalist Prize is proudly supported by the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS), Brisbane and YFG Shopping Centres.*

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# Table of Contents

Key Dates – Page 3

Finalists Prizes – Page 3

Applicant Eligibility – Page 4

Application Process – Page 5

Recorded Audition Requirements – Page 6

Accompanist – Page 5

Brennan Keats Violin Loan – Page 7

Entry Fee – Page 4

Application Checklist – Page 8

Competition Conditions – Page 9

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# KEY DATES

<b>Stage 1 applications open</b>	Friday 1 November 2024, 10am
<b>Stage 1 applications close</b>	Monday 25 November 2024, 5pm
<b>Applicants receive audition invitation by</b> (Unsuccessful applicants also informed by this date)	Tuesday 26 November 2024, 5pm
<b>Stage 2 application deadline</b>	Friday 31 January 2025, 5pm
<b>YIP 2025 Finalists notified by</b> (Brennan Keats OAM Violin Loan Prize winner & unsuccessful applicants also informed by this date)	Friday 28 February 2025
<b>YIP 2025 Finalists' Recital</b>	Saturday 26 April 2025, 6:30pm

# FINALIST PRIZES

<b>First prize</b>	\$5,000
<b>Second prize</b>	\$3,000
<b>Third prize</b>	\$2,000
<b>Fourth prize</b>	\$1,000
<b>Fifth prize</b>	\$500
<b>Sixth prize</b>	\$500

All Young Instrumentalist Prize Finalists will also receive complimentary tickets to select Queensland Symphony Orchestra concerts of their choosing. If applicable, a seventh prize of \$250 may be awarded. All prize money is in AUD. Any prize money must be spent on the recipient's continuing music education or towards the purchase of an instrument.

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# ELIGIBILITY

Young Instrumentalist Prize applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in year 7–12 at any Queensland secondary school (including home schools) in 2025
- Play an orchestral instrument (including saxophone but not including keyboard instruments) to a standard which is equivalent to AMEB Grade 8 or higher
- Have completed the [online application form](#) and paid the entry fee to Queensland Symphony Orchestra by 5pm on Monday 25 November 2024
- Are not a previous First Prize winner of the Young Instrumentalist Prize. Applicants who have auditioned in previous years who wish to re-enter the competition are welcome to re-apply however, they must prepare a different concerto movement to that ever performed previously in this competition.

# ENTRY FEE

Applicants must submit an [online application form](#) and pay the entry fee of \$100.00 by 5pm on Monday 25 November 2024. The entry fee must be deposited into Queensland Symphony Orchestra's account to be considered "received". The entry fee is only refundable if an applicant is deemed ineligible to audition by Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

**Entry Fee:** \$100.00

**Account Name:** Queensland Symphony Orchestra

**Due date:** 5pm, Monday 25 November 2024

**Payment details - BSB:** 084 004

**Payment details – ACN:** 888435786

**Reference:** Please use the naming convention *YIP\_surname\_ first name* when making the deposit (eg. YIP\_Smith\_John)

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# APPLICATION PROCESS

## Stage 1:

Applicants must complete the [online application form](#) and pay the \$100.00 entry fee by 5pm on Monday 25 November 2024. Applicants will receive a confirmation email from Queensland Symphony Orchestra, notifying them if their application is considered eligible and, if it is eligible, they will be invited to audition by 5pm on Tuesday 26 November 2024.

## Stage 2:

Invited applicants must then submit the following;

- an [audition form](#)
- 1 file with the **solo sheet music to be performed**
- 1 file with the **piano accompaniment sheet music**
- a **link** to their recorded audition (see “*Recorded Audition requirements*” below)

When submitting each file/link listed above, please follow the relevant naming convention:

*YIP\_applicant surname.first name\_form* (eg. YIP\_Smith.John\_form)

*YIP\_applicant surname.first name\_solo* (eg. YIP\_Smith.John\_solo)

*YIP\_applicant surname.first name\_piano* (eg. YIP\_Smith.John\_piano)

*YIP\_applicant surname.first name\_audition* (eg. YIP\_Smith.John\_audition)

These materials must be submitted in one email to [edcom@qso.com.au](mailto:edcom@qso.com.au), no later than 5pm on Friday 31 January 2025. Any videos submitted after this date will not be considered. Applicants will receive a confirmation email notifying them if their audition is considered complete within 1 week of their submission. If selected as YIP Finalists, applicants must perform the same music performed in their successful recorded audition, unless otherwise negotiated with Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

# ACCOMPANIST

Applicants must organise their own accompanist, at their own cost, for their recorded audition and the Finalists’ Recital, if selected. Queensland Symphony Orchestra can assist with organising Brisbane-based accompanists for regional or remote students selected as semi-finalists and/or finalists.

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# RECORDED AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Once an applicant is invited to audition, they must submit a video recording of themselves. The criteria for this recorded audition is;

- The repertoire must be from a movement or movements from a recognised concerto, or a work for solo instrument and orchestra. If more than one movement is selected, the movements must be from the same concerto.
- The recorded audition must be **strictly between 8–12 minutes of played music**. Spoken introductions are not considered part of this time limit. Auditions where less than 8 minutes or more than 12 minutes of music is played will not be considered.
- Cuts can be made in the selected work to allow the performance to be within the strict 12-minute music time limit.
- The recorded audition must include a live piano accompanist.
- Two versions of music should be submitted with the video audition; 1 solo version of the music performed and 1 version including piano accompaniment.
- All submitted sheet music must match exactly with what is played in the recorded audition. Any cuts to the music must be clearly marked on both the solo and piano accompaniment parts. This sheet music will be used by the adjudicators.

If an applicant is unsure about the eligibility of a selected work, they should contact the QSO Education team at [edcom@qso.com.au](mailto:edcom@qso.com.au). If selected to be a Young Instrumentalist Prize finalist, the applicant must perform the same music performed in their successful recorded audition, unless otherwise negotiated with Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

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# **BRENNAN KEATS OAM VIOLIN LOAN**

All violin applicants may elect to be considered for the Brennan Keats Violin Loan Prize in their YIP application. One violinist will be selected by YIP adjudicators to receive the loan of an AE Smith 1961 Violin for one year. This instrument has been kindly donated to the Queensland Symphony Orchestra for use by an outstanding young violinist. The original donor, Brennan Keats OAM, entrusted the instrument to the National Instrument Bank created by Music Australia, and in 2020, ownership of the instrument was transferred to Queensland Symphony Orchestra in its own right.

The winner of the Brennan Keats OAM Violin Loan Prize must organise their own instrument insurance and, upon providing the insurance policy receipt, be reimbursed by Queensland Symphony Orchestra. Violin applicants requesting to be considered for this prize should include how being loaned the AE Smith 1961 Violin for one year would benefit them as a young musician. The successful recipient of the Brennan Keats OAM Violin Loan is responsible for obtaining instrument insurance before they can receive the AE Smith violin. Please read the “*Competition Conditions*” section in this document for more information.

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# APPLICATION CHECKLIST

## Stage 1:

Complete the [online application form](#)

Pay the entry fee

**Stage 1 application criteria must be received by QSO by 5pm on Monday 25 November 2024.**

Please wait for a response from QSO, inviting you to audition and submit your materials.

## Stage 2:

Upon being invited to audition and submit your additional materials, please create an email and attach the following 3 files and 1 link separately in it. Please do not create a ZIP file or send all documents in 1 combined .pdf file.

Complete the [audition form](#)

1 solo version of the music performed in your audition (any cuts must be included)

1 version of the music performed in your audition including piano accompaniment (any cuts must be included)

1 link to your audition via Dropbox, One Drive, Google Drive, etc. Please ensure that your sharing permissions allow for [edcom@qso.com.au](mailto:edcom@qso.com.au) and [communityeducationqso@gmail.com](mailto:communityeducationqso@gmail.com) to view your audition.

When attaching each file/link to your email, please follow the relevant naming convention:

*YIP\_applicant surname.first name\_form*

*YIP\_applicant surname.first name\_solo*

*YIP\_applicant surname.first name\_piano*

*YIP\_applicant surname.first name\_audition*

**Stage 2 application materials must be sent in one email to [edcom@qso.com.au](mailto:edcom@qso.com.au) by 5pm on Friday 31 January 2025.**

Both the Young Instrumentalist Prize application and audition forms referenced and linked throughout this document are also available at

[www.qso.com.au/education/programs/young-instrument-prize](http://www.qso.com.au/education/programs/young-instrument-prize)

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# COMPETITION CONDITIONS

Queensland Symphony Orchestra defines Southeast Queensland based on the definition by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology) Applicants may only apply to this competition once per instrument. If an applicant wishes to apply twice or more on different instruments and they are invited to audition, they will be expected to pay the entry fee per application. An application is not considered complete until the entry fee has been deposited into Queensland Symphony Orchestra's bank account. The entry fee is only refundable if an applicant is deemed ineligible to audition by Queensland Symphony Orchestra. If an applicant is invited to audition, failure to submit the recorded audition and additional materials by the stated deadline will result in the application being considered incomplete and immediate disqualification of the applicant from the competition. Recorded auditions where the applicant plays less than 8 minutes or more than 12 minutes of music will not be considered. Applicants must perform the same music performed in their successful recorded audition, unless otherwise negotiated with Queensland Symphony Orchestra. All YIP applicants must supply their own instrument and accompanist at all times. Submitted headshots/bios may be used for promotional purposes and at the Finalist's Recital.

The successful recipient of the Brennan Keats OAM Violin Loan is responsible for obtaining instrument insurance before they can receive the AE Smith violin. The recipient must obtain a quote and send it to Queensland Symphony Orchestra for approval before purchasing the insurance policy. Once a policy is approved by Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the recipient must supply proof of insurance and total cost of the policy. Queensland Symphony Orchestra will then reimburse the recipient for their instrument insurance policy. An instrument policy obtained prior to QSO's approval will not be reimbursed.

Both the Young Instrumentalist Prize application and audition forms referenced and linked throughout this document are also available at

[www.qso.com.au/education/programs/young-instrument-prize](http://www.qso.com.au/education/programs/young-instrument-prize)

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