



## QSO SIDEBYSIDE: CAIRNS 2026

Queensland Symphony Orchestra's SidebySide program provides instrumental music students in Queensland with one-on-one mentoring from a QSO musician and the opportunity to participate in a mainstage performance alongside the full Orchestra. The program is completely free to participants.

QSO invites students from Cairns and surrounding areas to audition for the opportunity to perform alongside QSO in **Symphony Under the Stars - Cairns** conducted by **Nil Venditti**. Program participants will join the Orchestra for **Mozart's Turkish March**.

**SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS - CAIRNS**  
**MUNRO MARTIN PARKLANDS**  
**28 AUGUST, 7PM**

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Application Timeline

Monday 15 June	Cairns SidebySide audition material released and applications open
Friday 17 July	Applications close
Friday 24 July	Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application

#### Workshop and performance timeline

Thursday 27 August	4-5pm - Tutorials with QSO Mentors 5-6.30pm - Dinner break 6.30-9.30pm - Full orchestra rehearsal
Friday 28 August	6pm - Arrival call 7-10pm - Performance

**Please note, QSO requires a designated parent/guardian to attend the tutorial, rehearsal, and performance.**

[\*\*Click here to apply.\*\*](#)

## Eligibility

Students must be **currently enrolled in a Queensland secondary school** and should be of a standard equivalent to **AMEB Grade 6 and above**. Applicants will be assessed on their instrument technique and demonstrated commitment. Priority will be given to older students.

QSO can accommodate one student for each of the instruments listed below, with a maximum of ten positions available.

Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French horn, Trumpet, Percussion.

## Audition requirements

Application form	Please complete the application form ( <a href="#">link here</a> ) and submit an audition recording of the required excerpt for your instrument ( <a href="#">excerpts available here</a> ) and your chosen piece. Applications must be completed in full; submissions without an audition recording will not be accepted.
Excerpts	<a href="#">Audition excerpts can be found here</a>
String applicants	Please prepare the provided excerpt (Violins choose 1st or 2nd part) AND one piece under 3 minutes of your own choosing
Wind applicants	Please prepare the provided excerpt AND one piece under 3 minutes of your own choosing
Brass applicants	Please prepare the provided excerpt AND one piece under 3 minutes of your own choosing
Percussion applicants	Please prepare the provided excerpts for Cymbal, Triangle and Bass Drum
Recording	Auditions are to be submitted as audio recordings with the following naming convention: <i>Lastname_Firstname_Instrument_Piecenname_Location</i>

**For further enquiries, please email [edcom@qso.com.au](mailto:edcom@qso.com.au)**

