

Hello!

Thank you for applying to the Young Musicians Programme. My name is Hannah Fumoleau, I am the YMP Manager. The YMP team are looking forward to meeting you when you come for your audition.

Soon after you apply you will receive your official invitation with a date, time and information about what you will be asked during your audition.

We audition people from all backgrounds and whatever their personal circumstances we support their access to music study. Our team will support you to feel as comfortable as possible when you come to an audition. So you know what to expect we have made this audition guide.

Arriving at Sage Gateshead

All our auditions are held at Sage Gateshead. You can get here by walking, bus, metro, car or taxi. [Here](#) is a link to where we are in google maps. There is more information about getting here on our website: <https://sagegateshead.com/your-visit/get-here/>

When you arrive, you will come into the building through one of the two main entrances at the right or left side of the building. Our main Concourse area is a big open space with views of the Gateshead and Newcastle quayside, River Tyne and you can see the outside of our three concert halls. Make your way along the Concourse until you get to the centre of the building where we have our café. Next to the café is a set of stairs leading down to our Music Education Centre. This is where you'll have your audition, there is also a lift you can use behind the stairs to the right.

Registering and warming up

You'll get a friendly welcome when you arrive in the Music Education Centre. The reception desk is just underneath the stairs, please introduce yourself to us and let us know which audition you are here for. We'll show you to a private room where you can warm up, tune up, have a drink and relax before your audition. If you have friends or family with you they are welcome to join you in the warm up room.

Please can you arrive at least 20 minutes before your audition time. There are lots of rooms (26 in total) and corridors in our Music Education Centre, so if you need to use the bathroom or find one of our water fountains please ask at the reception desk and we will be happy to show you around.

The audition

When it is time for your audition a member of the YMP team will come to the warm up room to collect you and take you to a room similar to the one you have been warming up in. Normally young people audition on their own but if you need a parent or carer to come into the room to support you, this can be arranged.

In the audition room there will be two teachers from the YMP team behind a table, they are the audition panel. As well as hearing you play your instrument, they will want to get to know more about you as a person, your musical background and your interests, what you want to learn and how you want to learn it. They will find out if our programme is the right place for you to begin or continue your musical learning.

Here are parts of the audition you might have seen on your invitation and what they mean. Importantly, if any of the below were not mentioned on your invitation they will not be part of your audition.

- 1. Performing 2 contrasting pieces of your own choice:** you will be asked to perform 2 pieces of music you like on your chosen instrument or instruments, including singing. Please choose pieces that are different in some way e.g. different styles of music, different speeds or show different feelings (happy/sad/serious).
- 2. Demonstrate your level of sight reading:** Sight reading is reading and performing a piece of music from musical notation (manuscript, guitar tab etc.) without any preparation. You don't need to know how to read music or sight read to get a place on many of our programmes. In many cases the audition panel will not expect you to know how to read music or sight read. Many of the young people who join our programmes don't know how to read music or sight read and if they need to they can learn after they join. If you can read music or sight read you will be asked to show the panel so they can find out what support you need for your musical learning.
- 3. Demonstrate your level of aural perception through a series of aural tests:** in an aural test a member of the audition panel plays a musical phrase or tune and then asks you questions about it. The questions will be about the rhythm, melody, harmony, emotion and musical style. You might also be asked to sing or play back a short phrase. This is a skill you

can develop with the right support, this test will help us find out what support you need for your music learning.

- 4. Demonstrate your knowledge of scales and arpeggios:** for some auditions the panel will ask you if you are familiar with scales, arpeggios or chords. You will only be asked to play or sing scales, arpeggios or chords if this is something you are familiar with.
- 5. Demonstrate your ability to improvise:** if you are comfortable with improvisation, a member of the audition panel will play a repeating chord pattern and you will be asked to improvise a solo on your instrument over this pattern. If you are not comfortable with improvising then please let the audition panel know, this is a skill that you can learn if you join the programme.
- 6. Demonstrate your ability with snare rudiments and coordinated independence exercises:** for percussion auditions you will be asked to show percussion skills you are familiar with that are relevant to your chosen instrument.
- 7. Demonstrate your ability with some simple vocal studies:** for vocal / singing auditions the panel will listen to how high and low your voice can go, so they can hear your vocal range. The panel will also ask you if you are familiar with scales, harmony and breathing and performance techniques. You will only be asked to sing scales, harmonies or demonstrate techniques if this is something you are familiar with.
- 8. Exercises to test vocal range and musicianship skills:** for vocal / singing auditions the panel will listen to how high and low your voice can go, so they can hear your vocal range. The panel will listen to your musicianship skills by playing a tune or phrase, which you sing back to them; asking you to clap in time to music; asking you about your singing background and your understanding of singing dynamics (singing loudly and quietly).
- 9. Following your audition you will be asked to complete a short music language paper to establish your current level of understanding of music theory (only for Centre for Advanced Training auditions):** after your audition you need to collect a short music theory assessment paper from the reception desk. You can complete the paper near the reception desk, you don't have to go to a private room. This paper will not be used for the audition or recruitment process, we'll only look at it if you are offered a place on the programme. It is used to assess your knowledge of music theory and make sure we place

you in the right class. The questions increase in difficulty and you should not attempt to answer any questions you do not understand, just leave them blank.

10. Excerpts for you to prepare: for Young Sinfonia auditions there is a download available on our website, please learn this excerpt before the audition. You should only learn the excerpt for your instrument. The panel will ask you to perform this as part of your audition.

11. Accompanists: some people prefer to have a pianist present to accompany them while they perform their pieces. Sometimes we provide an accompanist for you, sometimes people like to bring their own. Some people prefer to perform unaccompanied or use a cd or mp3 backing track. We want you to perform in the way that is most comfortable for you.

Offers of a place in YMP

After your audition you can go home and have a well-deserved rest! We have lots of auditions every year to make sure we can meet everyone who wants to join the programme. We'll let you know if you have a place by email between 8th and 12th June 2020.

When you are offered a place on the programme we will ask you to complete an acceptance form to confirm your place by 29th June 2020. We'll also send you information about how to apply for financial support and bursaries. Sage Gateshead offers financial support for all of our programmes and many of our students don't pay any fees at all. More information can be found on our bursaries page, along with information about other bursaries you can apply to:

<https://sagegateshead.com/get-involved/courses-classes-workshops/ymp/bursaries>

For children and young people who are not offered a place we'll send you detailed feedback from the audition panel and give you suggestions about how you can progress with your musical learning. We'll also send you information about who you can contact for other music learning opportunities in your area.

If you still have questions after reading this guide then please do not hesitate to contact us at youngmusicians@sagegateshead.com. We are happy to answer your questions or discuss any part of the audition process with you. We are here to help you feel comfortable and confident when you come to Sage Gateshead.

Thank you very much for reading and best of luck with your audition!

Hannah