

Aldeburgh Young Musicians

Advanced mentoring in an inspirational landscape

Auditions

To become an Aldeburgh Young Musician, you will need to pass an audition, which takes place over two stages. The purpose of an audition is to help us to find out as much as we can about you.

Instrumentalists should prepare **two** contrasting pieces from different stylistic periods of up to 5 minutes duration on their Principal Study. If you are a musician of another, non-classical tradition, please prepare two short performances of differing styles and moods. Young composers are asked to submit a score or recording (CD/DVD/MP3 file) of some of their most recent works.

Aldeburgh Young Musicians will provide an accompanist at your audition. When selecting a piece for audition, choose pieces that you know well, you enjoy playing and can play confidently (see our guidelines below).

The auditions will involve several parts:

Preliminary Audition

This will last about 45 minutes and include the following:

- a performance of your audition pieces, followed by a brief session working at sections of it, which will help you to demonstrate your musical awareness and aural perception. You may be asked to stop playing before you reach the end of your piece, but this has no bearing on the decision
- an informal discussion with the panel to talk about your interests and experiences, what you think your weaknesses may be and why you want to become an Aldeburgh Young Musician. You will also have an opportunity to ask any questions
- successful candidates are able to show not only exceptional musical talent and commitment, but clear potential to develop as a musician and the capacity to benefit from the opportunities provided by Aldeburgh Young Musicians. Our Young Musicians will be able to communicate their musicality and have a real passion for music!

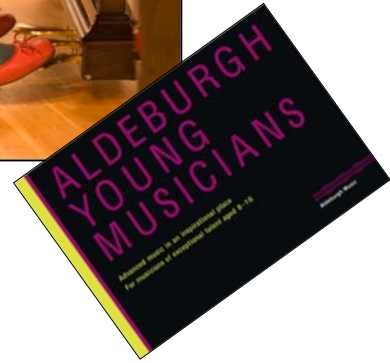
Final Audition

Final auditions involve a whole day at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Suffolk, working with other shortlisted candidates. If you are successful in your **preliminary** auditions, you will receive an invitation. **Final** auditions include improvisation and ensemble work – previous experience of this is not required. You will also be asked to perform your preliminary audition pieces again.

Students may apply for audition independently, or through recommendation by the Music Service, their school, or private instrumental teacher.

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A Guide to Auditioning

Some points to think about when preparing for an audition

What is the purpose of an audition?

Auditions help us to find out as much as we can about you – not just whether you are a good performer, but are you the sort of person who has the potential to benefit from the opportunities which we offer at Aldeburgh and our approach.

It's also an opportunity for you to find out about us! Does it fit in with your own attitude, learning style and personality?

We understand how nervous you may be feeling....we've been through it ourselves, after all! We aim to make it as friendly and relaxed as possible so that you can give your best and also enjoy the experience.



"It wasn't what I expected. The pressure was taken off the performance and my piece....." Harriet Caddick (Violin) – Aldeburgh Young Musician, Cambridge

There are some things you can do to help prepare:

Do your research...

Know about the music that you are performing:

- Who wrote it?
- When was it written? Which musical era is it from?
- What was going on in the world at the time the composer wrote the piece?
- What was happening in the composer's life when he/she wrote the piece?
- What are the special features of the pieces which you have chosen?

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Know about the scheme for which you are auditioning:

- What is Aldeburgh Young Musicians all about, for example?
- Why do you want to be part of it?
- Talk to your teacher about the scheme
- Do you have any questions for those on the panel?
- Do you need to enquire about scholarships, bursaries or funding assistance?

Practise well...

Pay attention to all the musical details

- Are you playing the correct notes and rhythms?
- Are you playing with the correct bowings and/or articulations?
- Do you have clear musical ideas about the piece that you are playing? Have you thought through each phrase?
- Have you listened to recordings of the piece that you are playing?
- Have you rehearsed with your pianist? Do you know the piano part and how it fits with your part?
- Have you tried performing your piece for family/friends/teacher? Do you play with authority?
- Have you practised announcing what you are going to play?
- Try and think about your playing and the pieces – how would you assess yourself, what are my strengths and weaknesses, what do I need to be working on and what were the challenges in relation to your chosen repertoire, etc.?

Before you leave the house...

- Warm up well – get your fingers moving with scales and technique, and be sure to practise difficult passages slowly and calmly
- Check to make sure that you have all of your music and any extra equipment you might need (rosin, shoulder rest, neck strap, spare strings, etc.)
- Double check your travel directions to the audition

Make a great first impression...

- Be on time! Plan to be at the audition at least 15 minutes before you are scheduled to play
- If you are not performing from memory, make sure you have your music organised and in order before the audition
- Look your best and be sure to dress appropriately, but comfortably
- Be sure to smile! Remember that your performance starts from the moment you enter the room – first impressions do count...every contact leaves a trace! Do your best to present yourself well, be confident and polite at all times, but be yourself!
- Always remember to speak politely and clearly to those on the panel
- Remember to thank those on the panel for listening to you play

Most importantly, do your best to breathe, relax, trust in your thorough preparation and play well...and enjoy yourself!! We want you to succeed at much as you do!



Aldeburgh Music