

How To Prepare For An Audition with National Youth Choir

The following guide is taken from the website where you can find other helpful videos:
<https://www.nationalyouthchoir.org.uk/how-to-prepare-for-an-audition>

Watch the Q&A video!

In September 2023 we recorded our online Discovery Event with Conductors Lucy Joy Morris, Joanna Tomlinson and some of the team where we explain more about National Youth Choir and go into detail about the auditions.

This is by far our best introduction to the organisation and to auditions! The team start to talk about auditions at about 38 minutes into this video:

[Discovery Event 2023](#)

What happens at an audition?

The big day! We want to assess your ability, potential, enthusiasm and your readiness to learn.

Our friendly team will help put you at ease on the day.

- At the venue, the National Youth Choir team will sign you in.
- There will be a warm-up led by some of our friendly auditions team to help you get your voice ready.
- One of the NYC staff will bring you into the audition room when it's your turn, where you will meet the two staff members on our audition panel.
- The panel will lead you through the audition process so you'll always know what to do next. They want you to feel confident and at ease.
- Your audition will last between 10 and 15 minutes.

The Auditions Process

Take a look at this short video from former Artistic Director, Ben Parry, and former member/opera singer, Fizz Buckland, who explain what happens at an audition:
<https://youtu.be/OaleGto0Jdg>

Your audition will last between 10 and 15 minutes, and will include four stages:

1. Getting to know you

We're keen to recruit singers who are passionate about music and singing in choirs. We would like to find out why you love singing and why you have decided to audition.

2. Song (unaccompanied)

At National Youth Choir we're passionate about all styles of music. You're welcome to sing any song you like in your audition. We welcome songs from all genres and enjoy discovering new music through the audition process. It could be a song you've learnt with a teacher, music from your own culture or something by your favourite artist or composer.

We're looking for great singers, so make sure you pick a song that shows off your voice and that you love to sing. We'd like you to sing your song from memory and without accompaniment or backing track. If you need a starting note our audition panel will help you. When considering what song to sing, make sure it's something you feel comfortable singing on your own.

3. Getting to know your voice

To help us to get to know your singing voice, the panel will lead you through some simple vocal exercises. This will help us to get a clear understanding of where you could be placed in one of our choirs. There's nothing to prepare here, but do make sure you're warmed up and ready to sing (see video above). Don't worry if your voice has recently changed or started to change, or your voice isn't in perfect health at your audition. Our panellists are experts at discovering your vocal potential, not just your current ability.

4. Musicianship

There are lots of elements that combine to create a good musician, which we will explore in this part of your audition. This part of your audition will vary depending on your age and experience. We are not trying to catch you out! We just want to see what you know, how you think, how developed your musical ear is and how much musical potential you have.

Below are some examples of what we might ask you to do:

School Years 5-10:

1. Clap or sing a simple call-and-response rhythm

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2. Sing back pitches played on the piano
3. Sing back the higher, lower or middle of two or three notes played together on the piano
4. Sing notated musical pitches on the screen and clap/sing notated rhythms
5. Explore your existing knowledge of symbols, signs and words in musical notation

From School Years 11:

1. Sing back pitches played on the piano
2. Sing back the higher, lower or middle of two or three notes played together on the piano
3. Sing a named note from a given note in C major
4. Sing a named interval from the note C within C major
5. Improvise simple melodies
6. Sing a short notated melody and identify musical symbols within the music

Depending on your age and experience, reading music and sight-singing are not an essential requirement for the audition, but we may explore this to assess your ability.