# Instrumental Music Ensembles Audition Information – Woodwind Instruments

Auditions will take place on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 October 2026 at The Arts Unit Lewisham.

The Arts Unit offers 6 weekly instrumental ensembles:

3 advanced ensembles:

- Symphonic Wind Ensemble (SWE) – Mondays 4.30pm – 7pm
- Symphony Orchestra – Thursdays 4.30pm – 7pm
- Jazz Orchestra – Tuesdays 4.30pm – 6.30pm

3 intermediate ensembles:

- Symphonic Wind Orchestra (SWO) – Mondays 4.30pm – 7pm
- String Sinfonia – Thursdays 4.30pm – 7pm
- Stage Band – Tuesdays 4.30pm – 6.30pm

There are 2 sets of audition requirements: Set A (advanced) and Set B (intermediate).

Instrumental Ensemble applicants are required to prepare either 'Set A' OR 'Set B'. Please choose the set that best demonstrates your current playing ability. It is highly recommended that you discuss this with your instrumental teacher. Please note that even though you are expected to prepare all scales, it is up to the panels discretion as to how many scales they will hear.

The audition will consist of:

1. Scales
2. Prepared piece – own choice
3. Prepared piece – set excerpt
4. Sight reading

With regards to those of you who wish to audition for both a classical ensemble (SWE, SWO, symphony orchestra) and a jazz ensemble (stage band, jazz orchestra) please note the following:

- If you are auditioning for a place in both types of ensemble you will have two separate auditions. Please prepare a different own choice piece for each audition in the differing styles. You will be required to prepare the set scales listed below for both auditions.

- Please note that the only woodwind instrument with a jazz option in our ensembles is saxophone.

- You will also need to perform both a classical and a jazz set excerpt which can be downloaded from our website two weeks prior to your audition – a link will be emailed to you to access this.

# Woodwind Audition Requirements

1. Scales – Scales are listed in a table on the next pages

You are required to learn all scales from the following 'set A' or 'set B' list. Accuracy, fluency and tempo will be assessed. Please be aware that there may be a chance not all scales will be heard.

2. Prepared Piece – Own Choice

Please prepare 1 piece or excerpt of your own choice (approx. 3 minutes long or less). This piece should demonstrate your technical and musical ability on your chosen instrument. Please note the panel may ask you to stop the piece at any point due to time constraints.

If you are auditioning for a place in a classical ensemble this should be a classical piece. If you are auditioning for a place in a jazz ensemble (saxophone only) this should be a jazz piece. If you are auditioning for a place in both ensembles please prepare 2 pieces, 1 of each style. This piece should demonstrate your technical and musical ability on your chosen instrument.

3. Prepared Piece – Set Excerpt

An excerpt for your instrument will be made available on The Arts Unit website two weeks prior to your audition – a link will be emailed to you to access this.

You are required to prepare this excerpt as part of your audition. The intention of this part of the audition is to ascertain your ability to prepare a difficult excerpt in a short period of time. Again, this will demonstrate technical and musical ability on your chosen instrument.

4. Sight reading

This will be provided during the audition.

# SET A – Advanced Ensembles

You are required to learn all scales and articulations. Please be aware that there may be a chance not all scales will be heard.

Articulation patterns:

- all slurred (quavers at crotchet = 100-120)
- all tongued (quavers at crotchet = 100-120)
- two slurred – two tongued (quavers at crotchet = 100-120)

| BASSOON | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • C (3 octaves)<br>• Bb (3 octaves)<br>• E (2 octaves)<br>• Ab (2 octaves)<br>• Bb Chromatic (3 Octaves) | • F (2 octaves)<br>• B (3 octaves)<br>• A (2 octaves)<br>• F# (2 octaves) |

| CLARINET | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • E (3 octaves)<br>• Bb (2 octaves)<br>• F (3 octaves)<br>• Db (2 octaves)<br>• E Chromatic (3 octaves) | • C# (2 octaves)<br>• G (3 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves)<br>• Bb (2 octaves) |

| BASS CLARINET | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • Bb (2 octaves)<br>• B (2 octaves) | • G (2 octaves)<br>• G# (2 octaves) |

| PICCOLO | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • G (2 octaves)<br>• F (2 octaves) | • E (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves) |

| FLUTE | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • E (2 octaves)<br>• B (2 octaves)<br>• Ab (2 octaves)<br>• Db (2 octaves)<br>• Chromatic starting on any note (2 octaves) | • C# (2 octaves)<br>• G# (2 octaves)<br>• F (2 octaves)<br>• Bb (2 octaves) |

| OBOE | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • F (2 octaves)<br>• E (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves)<br>• B (2 octaves)<br>• F Chromatic (2 octaves) | • F (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves)<br>• C# (2 octaves)<br>• Bb (2 octaves) |

| SAXOPHONE | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • Bb (2 octaves)<br>• B (2 octaves)<br>• E (2 octaves)<br>• F (2 octaves)<br>• F# Chromatic (2 octaves) | • E (2 octaves)<br>• F (2 octaves) |

# SET B – Intermediate Ensembles

You are required to learn all scales and articulations. Please be aware that there may be a chance not all scales will be heard.

Articulation patterns:

- all slurred (quavers at crotchet = 80-100)
- all tongued (quavers at crotchet = 80-100)
- two slurred – two tongued (quavers at crotchet = 80-100)

| BASSOON | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • Bb (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves)<br>• Eb (2 octaves)<br>• G (2 octaves)<br>• G Chromatic (2 Octaves) | • C (2 octaves)<br>• B (2 octaves)<br>• F (2 octaves)<br>• G (2 octaves) |

| CLARINET | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • Eb (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves)<br>• A (2 octaves)<br>• G (2 octaves)<br>• C Chromatic (2 octaves) | • F# (2 octaves)<br>• E (2 octaves)<br>• B (2 octaves)<br>• C (2 octaves) |

| BASS CLARINET | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • Bb (2 octaves)<br>• B (2 octaves) | • G (2 octaves)<br>• G# (2 octaves) |

| FLUTE | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • Eb (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves)<br>• A (2 octaves)<br>• Bb (2 octaves)<br>• Chromatic starting on any note (2 octaves) | • C (2 octaves)<br>• B (2 octaves)<br>• F# (2 octaves)<br>• G (2 octaves) |

| PICCOLO | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • G (2 octaves)<br>• F (2 octaves) | • E (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves) |

| OBOE | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • Bb (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves)<br>• Ab (1 octaves)<br>• C (2 octaves)<br>• B Chromatic (2 octaves) | • E (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves)<br>• B (2 octaves)<br>• C (2 octaves) |

| SAXOPHONE | |
|---|---|
| Major Scales | Harmonic Minor Scales |
| • F (2 octaves)<br>• D (2 octaves)<br>• Eb (2 octaves)<br>• E (1 octave)<br>• Bb Chromatic (2 octaves) | • C (2 octaves)<br>• F# (1 octave) |