

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Principal Timpani Audition – Information for candidates

Instruments available

MSO will provide three sets of instruments for candidates to choose from for the audition. The Ringer and Kolberg timpani are equipped with calf heads, the Ludwig and Goodman drums are equipped with plastic heads.

Ringer setup with calf heads (American configuration and Berlin-style pedals)

32" C-Bb

28" F-C#

25" Bb-F

23" C#-G#

Ludwig 23" E-G# (plastic head)

Kolberg setup with calf heads (American configuration and Berlin-style pedals)

32" C-Bb

29" F-C

26" A-F

25" B-F#

Goodman chain drum 22" D-G# (plastic head)

Ludwig setup with plastic heads

32" C-Bb

29" F#-C#

26" Bb-F

26" D-G

23" E-G#

All audition excerpts can be played on any one of these three sets of timpani. You may perform any excerpt on the set of your choosing however please do not move any drums from their assigned location.

Applicants will be required to perform on the MSO provided timpani sets as per above.

Flat stick trays/traps tables will be provided, however if you prefer to use a mallet rack please bring your own.

Rehearsal and drum access

Subject to availability and the number of applicants, we will endeavour to provide each candidate with the opportunity to rehearse in the Iwaki Auditorium for 30 minutes on Sunday 19th April. We will also endeavour to offer an additional 30 minutes access to a practice room on Sunday 19th April. Please ensure you start and finish your rehearsal time as scheduled including set up/pack up so as not to encroach on the rehearsal time of others. All access to the MSO's instruments must be coordinated through the Auditions Coordinator.

There will be one set of plastic head timpani available in a warm-up room on the audition days. You will be advised how much warm up time will be available on the actual audition day closer to the audition.

Special instructions

In the allocated practice time leading up to the audition please do not use a key to fine tune the heads. Please report any fine tuning or range concerns to management and a member of MSO will deal with it. We would like to keep the instruments in excellent condition and so please consider using softer mallets and softer dynamics during practice times to avoid damage to the skins. Please leave the pedals in a central position after practice.

During the audition applicants may use an electronic tuner before they begin but the tuner may not be used once their audition is in progress. A tuning fork may be used at any time.