



## **2026 QSO ACADEMY PROGRAM QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

### **Background**

The QSO Academy Program lays the groundwork for aspiring pre-professional musicians to step into an orchestral career through intense preparation and training including masterclasses and lessons with globally renowned artists, mentorship from QSO musicians, and the opportunity to play in chamber and orchestral performances, including mainstage, opera and ballet productions and regional programs.

This Program will further develop the technical skills already present from high-level tertiary study, as well as provide insights into career management and preparation for auditions – helping to develop sustainable and rewarding careers.

The QSO recognizes its essential role in developing the next generation of instrumentalists, especially where the participants can grow into future permanent musicians of the Orchestra.

### **2026 Program Summary**

The Program will run from 2 February – 26 July 2026. There is a strict minimum playing standard and no minimum intake. Only those applicants of suitable playing standard will be considered for a place in the program. Commencing in February 2026, the QSO will accept up to eight (8) musicians into the Academy Program on the following instruments.

1. Violin (2 positions)
2. Viola\*
3. Cello\*
4. Double Bass\*
5. Flute
6. Horn
7. Trumpet

\*Viola, Cello and Double Bass positions for the 2026 program have been filled by Queensland Conservatorium/University of Queensland tertiary students.

Academy Participants will receive:

1. Guaranteed minimum inclusion in 40 calls of professional rehearsal and performance experience. Where possible this will be scheduled across a variety of activities, including one Ballet production, one Opera production, one Regional Tour activity and one mainstage Maestro concert performance and one chamber music project (or chamber orchestra project) with permanent members of QSO, however this will also depend on the QSO season schedule.
2. Work experience with the QSO's Management Team.
3. 2 x Mock Auditions (with two different typical programs for standard orchestral auditions).
4. 2 x Workshops on audition repertoire with a group of QSO musicians/mentors
5. 6 x lessons on orchestral excerpts and audition preparation (minimum of two with the relevant section leader and the remainder from any QSO musicians or titled conductors of the Participant's choice)
6. Presentations on topics such as transition from study to work, audition preparation, managing nerves and health and well-being.
7. Possible masterclasses with guest international soloists/conductors.

Academy Participants will need to be fully available to QSO scheduled activities for the period of the Academy. All rehearsal and performance calls attached to the list of activities above will be the base commitment of each Participant. Participants may also be offered additional casual work with QSO throughout the program, where

possible and appropriate.

### **Auditions**

Date	<b>Tue 14 October, 2025</b>
Location	ABC Studio (QSO), 114 Grey Street, Brisbane
Time	To be confirmed one week prior to audition
Excerpts	2-3 standard excerpts and 1 free-choice performance piece. Excerpts will be available for download upon application.

Recorded auditions will be accepted. Please contact [recruit@qso.com.au](mailto:recruit@qso.com.au) as soon as possible for further details on recorded audition requirements. All live auditions will be filmed for future reference.

### **Financial Arrangements**

An amount of \$15,000 will be paid by QSO to Academy Participants in recognition of the calls scheduled, averaged across the duration of the program. Payments are made fortnightly.

### **Eligibility and Requirements**

1. The QSO Academy Program is a 6-month commitment and successful candidates will need to reside in Brisbane from 2 February – 26 July 2026 inclusive.
2. Applications to audition will be accepted from the following instruments: Violin, Flute, French Horn and Trumpet.
3. Applicants must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident or New Zealand citizen.

### **To Apply**

Interested applicants should submit a CV via the musical chairs website <link> before COB Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2025. Any queries regarding the program or auditions may be directed to [recruit@qso.com.au](mailto:recruit@qso.com.au).

