

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

about the YouTube Symphony Orchestra

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*The FAQs will soon be available in your local language. Thanks for your patience.*

## General Questions

### 1) Q: What is the YouTube Symphony Orchestra?

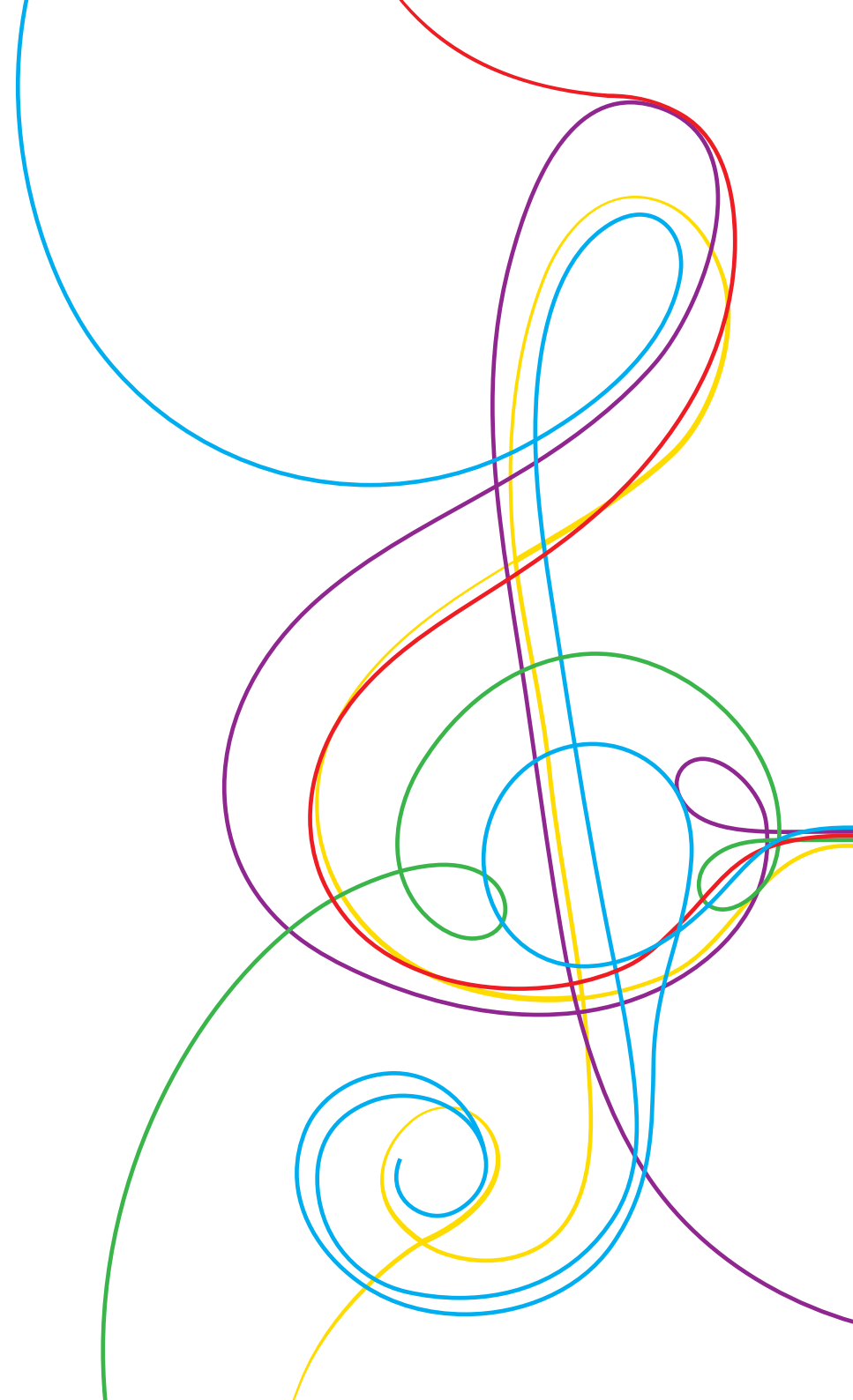
A: The YouTube Symphony Orchestra is an exciting project to create the world's first collaborative orchestra. YouTube and the London Symphony Orchestra invite you to celebrate the Internet's unprecedented diversity and collaborative possibilities and the power of music as a shared global language. We hope the YouTube Symphony Orchestra will bring people together from all over the world, and serve as a venue for established musicians and emerging talent to collaborate joyfully and creatively in a new way.

### 2) Q: How do I participate in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra?

A: You can participate by submitting two videos: one of you performing a part of a piece specially arranged for the YouTube Symphony Orchestra by Academy Award-winning composer Tan Dun, and one video of you performing one of a number of specified public domain pieces which will be your audition to perform with the YouTube Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Get started by selecting your instrument to access the sheet music for Tan Dun's piece and practice with the conductor video. When you're ready, simply record and upload your two videos.

### 3) Q: Why are you asking me to submit two videos?

A: There are two ways to participate in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra. The first video is a performance of your part in a piece written for the YouTube Symphony Orchestra by Academy Award-winning composer Tan Dun (Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon). These videos will be compiled by our partner, the LSO, into a collaborative video to be featured on YouTube (and perhaps at the final event at Carnegie Hall). The second video, a talent video of you performing one of a number of specified public domain pieces is meant to display your musical ability, and is your audition to be considered eligible to perform live with the YouTube Symphony Orchestra (currently scheduled to appear at a live event at New York's Carnegie Hall on April 15, 2009), under the direction of conductor Michael Tilson Thomas.



**4) Q: Must I submit both videos?**

A: No, you're welcome to just submit one video, but you have to submit both for a chance to be considered to play as part of the YouTube Symphony Orchestra.

**5) Q: Do I need to be a professional musician to participate in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra?**

A: Not at all. Everyone is welcome to submit audition videos, no matter where you live and what instrument you play. So if you're passionate about music and interested in participating in this global collaboration, show us what you've got!

**6) Q: Who are the partners involved?**

A: We're partnering with orchestras, music schools and organizations around the world who will be offering musical assistance via demonstrations and master classes, locations if you need a place to record your videos, and help in spreading the word and encouraging participation.

**7) Q: I don't play an instrument, but I'd still like to be involved. How can I help?**

A: Thank you for your interest! You can certainly help this project by encouraging participation in your school, city or among your friends. We also hope you'll return frequently to YouTube to view video submissions for the project and, most importantly, vote for your favorite musicians that you would like to be included in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra during the final stage of the audition process.

## Video One Questions: Tan Dun Piece

**1) Q: Who is Tan Dun?**

A: Tan Dun is a renowned Chinese composer whose music spans the boundaries of classical, multimedia, Eastern and Western music traditions. He is best known for his Grammy and Academy Award-winning scores for the movies *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Hero*, and he wrote the official music for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. He has provided us with an original arrangement for this project.

**2) Q: How do I choose a part to play from Tan Dun's piece?**

A: Go to the 'Prepare' tab of your local YouTube Symphony Orchestra channel and select an instrument from the pull-down list. That will give you access to the sheet music for that instrument, and the opportunity to rehearse your part with the conductor video. All the parts will be compiled by LSO into a global collaborative video.

**3) Q: What if there's more than one part for my instrument on the list?**

A: Just choose the part you want to play; for example, Flute 1 or Flute 2. Hint: You may improve your chances of participating in the collaborative video by choosing a secondary part.

**4) Q: What if my instrument isn't on the list?**

A: You are welcome to upload videos of you playing any instrument, from the erhu to wine glasses; we encourage diversity and creativity. If your instrument isn't listed, choose one that's in the same range and pitch and download that music to practice and record. For a list of parts for alternate instruments, choose Other instrument on the Prepare tab and view the PDF file.

**5) Q: May I sing or rap instead of playing an instrument?**

A: Yes, as long as you sound similar - i.e. match the range and pitch of the instrument you've selected. For example, you can beatbox the percussion or imitate the sound of another instrument with your voice. If you're going to do this, please stick to the notes and refrain from using words, as if you do we won't be able to include you in the collaborative video.

**6) Q: May I audition in a group?**

A: Unfortunately, no - so we can assess performances properly, we need to see you performing solo. But we hope you'll encourage your friends to submit videos as well. In your comments you can link your videos with your friends, so people can check out what you're all doing.

**7) Q: May I improvise on Tan Dun's piece, or play the piece faster or slower?**

A: In order to help us create the collaborative video, we must ask that you stick to the part as written and to the tempo set by the conductor. You do have the opportunity to express your creativity in the talent video, which is your audition for the YouTube Symphony Orchestra concert at Carnegie Hall, although please use one of the public domain pieces indicated, so the judges are able to apply the judging criteria.

**8) Q: How will you ensure consistency of sound quality, tempo and pitch?**

A: We'll be able to ensure the quality of tempo and pitch through the conductor video that you can download from [YouTube.com/Symphony](http://YouTube.com/Symphony).

**9) Q: So I should have the conductor video on when I'm recording?**

A: Yes, that's the best way to make sure you keep in time. If you haven't done so before, this might also help you develop a sense of how it feels to play in a live orchestra.

**10) Q: What is the deadline for submitting my video performance?**

A: The deadline is January 28, 2009. Audition for a chance to participate in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra now!

## Video Two Questions: Talent Video

**1) Q: What am I supposed to do for the talent video?**

A: The talent video is your audition to be considered to perform with the YouTube Symphony Orchestra at the live event, (tentatively scheduled to take place at Carnegie Hall on April 15, 2009). Your goal should be to use this chance to show our judges and YouTube viewers, your musical ability. You can get started on the Prepare tab by selecting the piece you'd like to play. Practice and when you're ready, just record your performance, upload and submit your video. Please remember that only pieces from the official list are allowed for the talent video and only the first 5 minutes of any submission will be considered!

**2) Q: What if my instrument isn't on the list of recommended pieces?**

A: You are welcome to upload videos of you playing any instrument, from the erhu to wine glasses; we encourage diversity and creativity. If your instrument isn't listed, choose one that's in the same range and pitch. For a list of parts for alternate instruments, choose Other instrument on the Prepare tab and view the PDF file.

**3) Q: May I edit the audio by putting different pieces together?**

A: We prefer that you record one piece of music in one take instead of compiling several pieces together; it will make it much easier to get a sense of how you perform and how you'll sound in a larger group.

**4) Q: Does the video have to show me playing my instrument throughout?**

A: This project is about musical ability. Accordingly, we really want to see your musical performance.

**5) Q: May I submit more than one talent video?**

A: We ask that you submit just one collaborative video and one talent video as your audition to join the YouTube Symphony Orchestra.

**6) Q: Will I still own the rights to my videos after I upload them to YouTube?**

A: You retain all of your ownership rights in your videos, but you are required to grant limited license rights to YouTube and (as part of this initiative) and its partners in this project. These are described in paragraph 10 of the YouTube Terms of Use, and also in the rule 13 of the official rules.

**7) Q: What is the deadline for submitting my videos?**

A: The deadline is January 28, 2009. Get started now!

**8) Q: If I miss the January 28 deadline, can I still submit videos after that date?**

A: You're certainly welcome to upload your videos to YouTube. However, we can only consider videos submitted by January 28th 2009 for the chance to perform as part of the YouTube Symphony Orchestra.

## Technical Questions

**1) Q: Help! I'm having technical problems. What should I do?**

A: Well, you can start at [YouTube's Help Center](#) which has lots of helpful info about all kinds of problems.

**2) Q: Is there a special format (avi, etc.) in which I should record my videos?**

A: No, there isn't; YouTube supports many different formats. You can learn more at the [YouTube Help Center](#).

**3) Q: I don't know how to record myself. Can someone help me?**

A: Maybe you can ask one of your friends to help you record your audition. You can probably also find more valuable assistance at the [YouTube Help Center](#).

## Voting Questions

**1) Q: How will the selection process for the YouTube Symphony Orchestra work?**

A: Eligible entries will be scored by the Competition Administrator, Marden Kane, Inc. based on criteria set out in the [Official Rules](#), and top scoring entries will be passed to international expert judging panel consisting of representatives from the London Symphony Orchestra, and other musical experts and organizations. This panel will then review the entries based on the criteria; and select a number of entries to be voted on by the YouTube community. The YouTube community will then vote for its favourites from this selection and the final decision of who will win a chance to perform in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra rests with the creative director of the YouTube Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas (who will apply the criteria set out in rule 7 of the official rules) The voting period is February 14th to February 22nd 2009 on [www.youtube.com/symphony](http://www.youtube.com/symphony).

## Event Questions

### 2) Q: How will the judging panel determine the finalists?

A: The judging panel will choose finalists based on criteria which are set out in rule 7 of the official rules: Interpretation of the music, musicianship, vitality of performance, originality of performance and evaluation of the performance as a whole.

### 3) Q: How many finalists will there be?

A: Depending on the number and standard of eligible of entries we receive, but we are hoping for about 200, and we may also identify additional entries to be participants in the live event, but as soloists rather than as part of the YouTube Symphony Orchestra's.

### 4) Q: When will I find out if I'm a finalist?

A: The deadline for video submissions is January 28th. If you are a potential finalist then we will notify you via your YouTube user account, and ask you to execute some documents (for more information, see rule 8 of the official rules. These have to be correctly executed and returned to us by February 12th, 2009 for you to be considered a finalist. On February 14th the judges will publicly announce the finalists and invite YouTube users to vote for their favourites. Public voting will end on February 22nd, 2009 and you will be notified via your YouTube user account on or about February 24th, 2009 if you have won the chance to perform in the orchestra or as a soloist at the live event.

### 5) Q: How does the public voting work?

A: Users can view the videos and vote either thumbs up or thumbs down. Each user can vote just once for each video. Michael Tilson Thomas will then review the final entries against the criteria which are set out in rule 7 of the official rules, and that will take into consideration which entries received the most "thumbs up" votes to determine who will have the chance to participate in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra 's live event.

### 6) Q: If I'm selected as a potential finalist, what do I need to do?

A: First of all, congratulations! We'll get in touch with you via the YouTube message service with specific instructions and details. More information on the documentation we will require you to complete can be found in rules 8 and 11 of the official rules.

### 7) Q: How many people will be chosen for the YouTube Symphony Orchestra?

A: Again, it depends on the number and the quality of the entries, but we are hoping to invite about 80 musicians to join the YouTube Symphony Orchestra, along with a selection of special soloists.

### 1) Q: Can everybody participate in the YouTube Symphony Orchestra at the live event?

A: Sorry, but only individuals who submit videos to be judged accordance with the official rules will have the chance to participate.

### 2) Q: I've been selected for the chance to perform as part of the YouTube Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie hall. What do I have to do now?

A: Congratulations, you've made it! Keep practicing and relax; we'll contact you to let you know what the next steps are.

### 3) Q: Even if I don't get selected to perform, can I come to the concert?

A: Of course; you're welcome to come and to bring your friends. However, this is a ticket-only event, and so no-one will be granted entry without a ticket. Watch for details about tickets via [www.YouTube.com/Symphony](http://www.YouTube.com/Symphony) and [www.CarnegieHall.org](http://www.CarnegieHall.org).

### 4) Q: If I am chosen to take part in the live event, do I need to make my own travel and hotel arrangements?

A: No, you do not; we'll take care and pay for the arrangements to get you to New York City for the live event. If you are a minor and require a parent or a guardian to accompany you, then we will also take care and pay for the arrangements for one parent or a guardian, and more details about the things you need to be responsible for (such as travel documents and any visas you may need can be found in Rule 11 of the official rules. Please note if you are not located in a country where YouTube is localized (for a list, please consult Rule 11 of the official rules), then you will be responsible for your own travel to a localized country in order to travel to New York.

### 5) Q: If I'm selected as a winner, how can I get in touch with other musicians who are selected to play in the live event?

A: We'll be putting together a contact list of all participants in the live event. We'll give you the opportunity to indicate whether you would like to be included in this as part of the standard documentation we require you to sign to participate.

### 6) Q: I wasn't chosen to play at the live event. Is there any chance that my video will be shown at the event anyway?

A: Yes, there is. We will be showing a selection of videos during the live event, and even if you do not win the chance to perform at the live event, your video may appear.