



GUIDANCE NOTES FOR TANZOS AUDITION PANEL 2025

Thank you for joining us on the audition panel for [Te Pae Kōkako – The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio](#) at The University of Waikato, an 18-month programme that runs from late-February to July of the following year.

We recognise that the background of each applicant is varied and we wish to nurture those who show exceptional promise, commitment and talent and the potential of succeeding in an opera career at an international level. Along with the standard indicators of vocal technique/ability, knowledge of style, repertoire choice, accuracy and convincing performance, we'll be looking at the character of our auditionees through a short interview during the audition. We're particularly looking for students with a firm self-belief but also recognition of their capacity for growth and their willingness to go beyond their comfort zones. They also need to show a level of maturity and humility that will serve them and the programme as ambassadors, and their ability to carry the responsibility of receiving the scholarships.

We'll be closely monitoring the wellbeing of our students and will be providing a tailored programme for each based on their needs, with a focus on some areas that are currently not available in some of our tertiary opera programmes, particularly specialist repertoire coaching, German and other European languages, stagecraft, wellbeing and resilience training, self-management. Those requiring musicianship and keyboard training will also have access to this.

There will be students who have commitments with external companies, the majority of whom we are in partnership with. We are fully willing to support those professional commitments, providing offsite coaching for those students OR involving the cohort in residencies with companies during their scheduled operas. Our ethos is that if it is a commitment that is *beneficial* to their professional development, we should be doing what we can to support that, but we will also be mindful of each student's capacity. There may also be applicants who are planning audition tours internationally in 2026. This scenario is to be expected of students at TANZOS level and we can support NAs for auditions etc during their time on the programme for studies/seasons starting in 2027. Early completion of the course is possible on a case-by-case basis but only during last three months (ie if they are entering an international summer programme such as Merola, which commences in June).

THE VOTING SYSTEM

Following mentoring and consultation with the heads of the Jette Parker Artist Programme at The Royal Opera House, we are adopting their marking system for the auditions which comprise a very simple voting system. They have found this system to be the most fair way of auditioning for their programme, and always invite shortlisted applicants back for a 'bootcamp' week, where they join the current artists in session.:

You will be required to select one of the following scores for each candidate:

3 = yes

2 = yes/maybe

1 = no/maybe

0 = definitely not

The absolute 'yes' and 'no' will be easy to remove from the discussion but most will fall into the maybe category. Separating the 'yes/maybes' and 'no/maybes' is an efficient way of sorting out the remainder of the candidates. At the end of each audition (or audition day – tbc), we will be collecting your votes and giving each auditionee a total score. The applicants will then be sorted in to categories depending on where the majority of the votes fell.

We will deliberate only at the end of the second day to choose a shortlist to remain for the next few days before we decide on the final cohort on Friday 12th September.