



## Goodear Acoustic Shield Information Sheet

Congratulations! You have purchased, or are considering purchasing, the Goodear Acoustic Shield. This award-winning OHS product was developed in Australia following extensive consultation with musicians and the National Acoustic Laboratories. Its groundbreaking, soft headpiece reduces exposure to dangerous sound levels.

The Goodear Acoustic Shield has been tested extensively in the laboratory and on the concert platform by National Acoustic Laboratories (Australia) and Musicians' Hearing Services. Results show that the Goodear Acoustic Shield significantly reduces peak sound levels for users, while not affecting the quality of the sound produced. When measured directly inside the shield in normal use position, the attenuation provided by the Goodear Acoustic Shield is approximately 8 dB (equivalent to an 84% reduction in dangerous sound exposure). Additional testing compared the Goodear Acoustic Shield to commonly used, hard clear acrylic screens. The acrylic screens showed **increases** in harmful sound exposure to adjacent musicians of approximately 3 dB (thereby doubling sound exposure to affected players). Comprehensive test results can be found in the National Acoustic Laboratories and Musicians' Hearing Services articles on the [Goodear](#) website.

### Tips for Introducing the Goodear Acoustic Shield to Your Musicians

It is human nature to resist change. Your musicians need to be introduced to the benefits of the Goodear Acoustic Shield and to understand that using it will protect their hearing while not compromising the artistic or musical integrity of their performance. You are likely to get a positive response to the Goodear Acoustic Shield if you:

- Talk to all players in the ensemble (not just those using the shield) and explain your reasons for introducing the shield. Ensure you explain the differences between the Goodear Acoustic Shield and clear, acrylic shields.
- Anticipate that some will comment on the "blackness" of the shield. It is not clear like acrylic shields but neither are music stands nor even the clothes worn by players. Clear screens get scratched and marked over time, which also reduces their transparency. Players will get used to the look of the shield very quickly.
- Discuss placement of the shields and ensure sight lines are clear for players sitting behind them. It works well to place musicians sitting behind the shields on risers, as is typical in most symphony orchestra setups.
- Ensure each shield is set at the right height for each player. The Goodear Acoustic Shield should sit just behind the head, and the player can lean back into it for additional protection if s/he knows a particularly loud passage is coming.
- Offer to provide players with the easy-to-read article on the Goodear Acoustic Shield published in *Acoustics Australia*, and if desired the full testing results from NAL and Musicians' Hearing Services. All these documents are freely available on the [Goodear](#) website.
- Invite feedback on the shields – and please feel free to provide feedback to us too!

### Why Choose the Goodear Acoustic Shield?

- The Goodear Acoustic Shield does not affect the ability of users to hear what they are playing or what those around them are playing (as earplugs can).
- The Goodear Acoustic Shield does not adversely affect the hearing of musicians adjacent or behind it (as acrylic shields can).
- Its soft headpiece absorbs harmful noise exposure while not affecting the sound produced by the player.

We are confident you will reap significant WHS benefits from Goodear Acoustic Shields. Please feel free to visit the [Goodear](#) website to discover more about the Goodear Acoustic Shield and check our [FAQs](#) page for answers to any questions you may have. Alternatively you can contact us with any queries or comments via email [goodear@symphonyinternational.net](mailto:goodear@symphonyinternational.net) or telephone +61 2 8014 7625 (Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM AEST).