

Oxfordshire Schools Orchestra



Information and Application Form for 2018 – 2019 Season

About Oxfordshire Schools Orchestra (OSO)

OSO is a fantastic opportunity for children aged 8 to 14 who are between grades 3-5 standard on an orchestral instrument to:

- Get expert coaching and support to progress to more senior ensembles
- Take part in day courses and a 4-day residential orchestra course with other activities
- Perform in prestigious venues

The OSO experience

OSO is a symphony orchestra experience for children and a great 'next step' from school ensembles and area music centres. Members will develop useful skills to take back to school. Joining OSO is much more than simply playing in an orchestra! Members make friends who often progress together through the more senior ensembles, including wind band, symphony orchestras, Big Band, and specialist ensembles where they may form their own chamber groups, play together in major national and international venues, and support each other over a period of many years. Members receive support and encouragement from specialist professional staff all of whom have substantial orchestral coaching experience.



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What's included

- 6 full days of professional coaching in 'full orchestra' and sectional rehearsals
- 4 half days of coaching and rehearsing
- Informal concerts to parents and friends
- 2 major concerts at Dorchester Abbey and the Centre for Music, Oxford, or other large venue
- 4 days' residential in the New Forest at Avon Tyrrell, with organised fun activities as well as rehearsals and coaching
- Membership of a nationally acclaimed orchestral system, long established in Oxfordshire

Cost

Membership for the whole 2018/19 season costs £525 This consists of a non-refundable £95 deposit, followed by payment by instalments. (There are a range of instalment options to suit your needs).

The Summer Residential

Avon Tyrrell is a residential centre providing rehearsal spaces, accommodation and catering. Its grounds are set in a huge, safe area in the New Forest in Hampshire.

OSO members work hard and play hard! They receive intensive rehearsals and coaching, but this is balanced by exciting activities including kayaking, climbing, 'high wire' etc. All activities are supervised by fully qualified staff from the Activity Centre.

After the evening rehearsal there are more activities before bedtime, including a talent show and a quiz.

All members are assigned a 'course mentor' and meet daily in groups to provide pastoral support and organise daily activities.

At end of the course there is a formal concert for parents and friends back in Oxfordshire.



How do I join?

Applicants should be at of least Grade 3 standard and between the ages of 8 and 14. No formal exam needs to have been taken, but a teacher recommendation would be required in this case.

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Dates for 2018 – 2019 Season

· 20, 21 October	Rehearsal at Centre for Music (9.30am-3.30pm)
· 12 January	Rehearsal at Centre for Music (2-5pm)
· 9 March	Rehearsal at Centre for Music (2-5pm)
· 8,9 April	Rehearsal at Centre for Music (9.30am-3.30pm)
· 15, 29 June	Rehearsal at Centre for Music (2-5pm)
· 6 July	Rehearsal & Concert Dorchester Abbey
· 26 (BH) -30 August	Residential course at Avon Tyrrell
· 30 August	Rehearsal at concert venue (10am-4pm) followed by our Gala Concert at 5pm

Cost

Membership for the whole 2018/19 season costs £525. This consists of a non-refundable £95 deposit, followed by payment by instalments. (There are a range of instalment options to suit your needs).

Commitment

We ask for a high level of commitment from students, not only so they benefit from the rehearsals but also because great orchestral playing is dependent upon the contribution from all members of the 'team'; if someone is missing, this has an effect on the whole orchestra.

We expect as near 100% commitment as possible. It is important to double check calendars to make sure of availability before accepting a place. Where there is a known clash in advance of the season, please request this at the point of application or acceptance so we can consider whether offering a place is appropriate.

Applications

Please complete the application form attached to this information, or visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/orchestras and complete the online form. Applications should be submitted by 22 June 2018.

Further Information

If you have any queries that have not been answered here, please email Liz Parkin. elizabeth.parkin@oxfordshire.gov.uk . We look forward to receiving your application.

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OSO Application Form 2018-2019 Season

Name			
Currently a member of (please tick):			
OSO	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instrument			
Standard			
Current Teacher			
School in Sept. 2018			
Age on 01/09/2018		School year in Sept. 2018	
Address			
Postcode		Tel. Number	
Parent email			
Student email			
Parent/Carer Name		Date	

Return this form to Oxfordshire County Music Service by
22 June 2018

Email: music.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk
 (Subject heading 'OSO application 2018 – 2019')

By submitting this form, you agree to abide by our terms and conditions should the offer of a place in one of the orchestras be taken up.

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