

Auditions NYO 2017

Parents and Guardian FAQs



This information is intended for Parents and Guardians of young people applying for NYO. Information specifically for applicants is available elsewhere on the website.

What characteristics does my son/daughter need?

First and foremost applicants should have a passion for classical music but they will also need to be committed, dedicated and hard-working. The reward for this hard-work is life-changing musical experiences and the opportunity to share their musical passion with other like-minded young people.

What is the time commitment to NYO and Inspire?

NYO musicians need to be available for the three residencies each year (in December/January, April, and July/August) plus days spent on one or more of our Inspire projects – in total approximately 50 days through the year.

Will they need to take time off school?

Most of our projects take place in school holidays but there may be some requirement to take a small number of days off school. This could be because the school holiday in your area is different to the rest of the country or because a project takes place outside the holiday period.

Can I attend the audition?

It is usual for parents and guardians to bring their son/daughter to the audition but you are not permitted to attend the process. The young musician will be invited to warm-up on their own and then have a short session with the NYO accompanist. After this they will be taken directly to the audition. Parents and guardians will not have access to the young musicians from when they go for their warm-up until the end of the audition. We aim to make the audition a positive process which will be beneficial to all young players. They will receive written feedback after the audition.

What happens if my son/daughter wants to withdraw from the process?

NYO is a charitable organisation and fundraises in order to provide free auditions for everyone. Few, if any, comparable organisations in the classical music world do this. Please remember this if you consider withdrawing your application. If you do need to withdraw, we ask you to give at least 30 days notice. You can do this via the website. In exceptional circumstances, such as illness, you will need to send in a doctor's note, or an email detailing the reason. If you are unable to do this within

four weeks after the audition date, we will ask you to make a donation of £150 to cover the cost of your unused audition, so we can ensure that teenage musicians can continue to have free auditions in the future. In applying for an audition, you are agreeing to these terms.

How are young people supported at NYO?

We hold safeguarding and pastoral care as a top priority. The Head of Support manages a Support Team of 10-12 people who are available 24/7 to ensure that every NYO musician feels safe and supported. They are trained in listening, conflict resolution, and dealing with the anxiety and injuries that many young musicians face. They are approachable, friendly and caring individuals who have dedicated their time to providing advice and a listening ear to any NYO musician. There is also a nurse on the residencies, who is available for medical advice and treatment whenever required.

Our safeguarding policy is delivered to every member of staff that works with the organisation, and every adult that comes into contact with the orchestra. Every adult is CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked. Musicians are reminded regularly how important it is for them to feel comfortable and safe. If anything were to occur on a rehearsal residency that makes an NYO musician feel uncomfortable, we encourage it to be reported to the Head of Support immediately so that action can be taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the young person.

For more information about our safeguarding and support policies, please click [here](#).

How will my son/daughter keep up with their educational work?

NYO is a big commitment through the year and it's true that it can take up a lot of time. However, with careful planning in advance, our musicians can enjoy the experience in full while still being able to stay on top of school work and revision for school, college and university. They are given some periods of free time and, in the case of the Spring Residency, a study space in which they are able to work quietly with or without their peers.

Not all activities are compulsory, creating more time for NYO musicians to use as they need. Many of them do incredibly well in their exams, but it takes a lot of organisation in advance, dedication and hard work in order for them to balance the rehearsal time with their revision time.