

# NYO Audition Information – Orchestra

## Keyboard opportunities



NYO are recruiting young musicians to join us on our residencies, playing orchestral keyboard parts. This is an exciting opportunity for any young pianists between the ages of 13-18 to develop your piano playing in an orchestral direction. We will provide world class tutoring and experience playing in large scale orchestral repertoire in major concert halls across the UK. You will work alongside other talented and like-minded young musicians and with first-rate artists at a national level.

We are looking for a small pool of two-four musicians who will join as the NYO Keyboard section. We will allocate residencies and projects between the keyboard section as the repertoire dictates. Keyboard parts cover orchestral piano, celeste and occasionally organ parts. We may audition separately for organ parts dependant on repertoire: if you are only interested in opportunities for organ, please enquire separately by emailing [auditions@nyo.org.uk](mailto:auditions@nyo.org.uk). Most residencies require two musicians from the section, but sometimes we may ask more to attend.

### Who can join?

- You need to be between 13 and 18 on 1 September 2019 in order to apply for NYO 2020.
- You should be at Grade 8 distinction level or equivalent. You will either need a copy of your certificate or mark sheet, or a letter from your instrument or music teacher.
- You are a British citizen, or resident or studying in the British Isles.
- You are not studying full-time at a college of music, or on a joint course with a music college.
- You must be available for all of the NYO orchestral rehearsal residencies, tour dates and performances and between 5-10 days of NYO Inspire Activity. Although we will need to allocate players as repertoire dictates, we ask all applicants to be available for the complete NYO calendar at this stage. In addition, we may ask if you would like to attend other activities that come up throughout the year. These will be voluntary. We will rotate all of these dates between musicians in the keyboard section, as the repertoire dictates.
- You must be able to make the first round of auditions, held for two days in September or October. We will confirm these dates by the application closing date of 4 July, if not before.
- When you complete your application, there is space to let us know about any availability issues you may have. Once you have been scheduled an audition slot,

## NYO guide to orchestra keyboard auditions for NYO 2020

please let us know within four weeks if you cannot make this date, venue or time. We will do our best to reschedule any auditions, but have extremely limited flexibility. Auditions cancelled after this time may incur a penalty charge of £150.

### How to apply

The first thing you need to do to apply is to create your own NYO online account on our website (at <https://nyo.imisccloud.com/musicians-area/>). You do this by clicking on the 'Musicians' Area' and then 'Sign up'. Once you've done this, you can click on 'My Applications' and get going! If you already have an account then you can carry on using this and create a new application.

The website will guide you through each step. It saves as you go along so you can come back to it at any time, and won't let you submit until you've done everything you need to. Any applications you're in the middle of will be saved in 'My Applications'.

During the application, you will need to include a copy of your Grade 8 certificate or mark sheet, or a letter from your instrument or music teacher. You'll also need to provide a photo of you and tell us which pieces you want to play in your audition.

There are some questions that you may need your parents or guardians to help you with. We ask this information so that we are able to statistically report back to the Arts Council and other high level funders. The Arts Council and other funders will not be given any personal information. This information will not be used for any other purpose in NYO and will not be passed on to any other third party.

When you apply, you will be asked for your two venue preferences for your audition. These must be different (e.g. if you choose London as your first option then you will need to pick a different city for your second option). We always place you in your first option if we can. It is very rare that we can't audition you at either your first or second option but this does happen sometimes as it depends on the number of applicants we have in each location. In these instances we will contact you to see what your next preference would be.

If your application is successful, we give you your audition date, time and venue via the email in July, including information about parking, public transport, and anything else you need to know.

If you'd like to audition on more than one instrument, please complete a separate application form on the website (you can keep your same log in)

### The Audition itself

In your audition you will be asked to play your chosen piece together with a selection of the orchestral excerpts and some sight reading. This will be followed by a short interview.

## NYO guide to orchestra keyboard auditions for NYO 2020

The audition panel will consist of an NYO Keyboard Tutor and a member of the NYO management team. Sometimes additional members of NYO staff will join the panel. You will be introduced to everyone on the panel when you go in to your audition. They are friendly, welcoming and approachable and want you to have a positive experience with us.

You'll be met on your arrival by a member of our Support Team. They are our pastoral support for all NYO activity we do. Their priority is to make sure you're happy and well looked after. They will show you to the waiting room and sit with your parents while you have your audition. They can also answer any questions you may have about NYO.

Please arrive at least 20 minutes before your audition in order to warm up.

Our auditions are designed to give you a constructive musical experience and something to take away with you, regardless of whether you are offered a place in NYO.

### **Your piece**

In the first part of your NYO audition you will play a piece of your own choice for the panel. You will be asked to play for around three minutes in total. You can choose an excerpt from a longer piece, but please bear the time limit in mind, otherwise you may be asked to stop before the end of your performance. Always choose a work you know well and enjoy playing, as this will help you perform at your best. Please bring a copy of your piece for the panel.

Have a look at our website [here](#) for tips on how to choose and prepare your pieces.

### **NYO Excerpts**

The excerpts are a central and vital part of your audition. We recommend you prepare very well indeed and look at them well in advance of your audition. Excerpts are chosen so that you can demonstrate your understanding of orchestral musicianship in demanding repertoire and in a musical context. They enable the audition panel to establish how players of differing standards address the technical and musical challenges in the same repertoire. Please pay very careful and thorough attention to all of the musical details of the excerpts (including tempo and markings).

Excerpts are available [here](#). Please prepare all excerpts.

Excerpts are chosen so that you can demonstrate your understanding of orchestral musicianship in demanding repertoire. They enable the audition panel to establish how players of differing standards and address the technical and musical challenges in the same repertoire.

All excerpts contain particular technical challenges. Please pay very careful and thorough attention to all of the musical details of the excerpts (including tempo and markings).

Have a look at our website [here](#) for tips on how to prepare your excerpts.

## Sight Reading

This is to assess how you respond to music that has not had the advantage of being fully prepared. It gives the panel a clear indication of your musical strengths and areas of improvement and also how you might approach a rehearsal when we are working on a new commission. We might also ask you to play some simple sight reading in a duet with our NYO Tutor to get an idea of how you might approach an ensemble context.

## The Interview

NYO auditions is the perfect moment for us to get to know you better in person, so we ask you for a quick chat after hearing you play. We want to find out a bit about what you think you'll bring to NYO and what you hope to gain from being in the orchestra. We might ask you about some things which you have written about in your application form. You might want to think about what we may expect of you as musicians and role models at NYO. It is a good opportunity for you to ask us any questions you have about us, too. We may also take this moment to talk about progress in your playing and give you any advice after hearing you play.

## Results

Once all instrumental auditions have taken place, we will contact you via email with your result. We regret that we cannot let you know results by telephone.

If you are offered a seat, you will be asked to confirm your commitment to the NYO orchestral rehearsal residencies, tour dates and performances and between 5-10 days of NYO Inspire Activity. You can find the full dates for NYO 2020 [here](#). As this is repertoire dependant in the keyboard section, you may not be asked to take part in them all.

## Withdrawals

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. To withdraw, please email [auditions@nyo.org.uk](mailto:auditions@nyo.org.uk). Please state on the subject line as: Withdrawal: <Name – Instrument>, and please let us know the reason of your withdrawal too.

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.