

The National Youth Orchestra warmly welcomes you – whether you're a musician or a member of the audience, you'll find a part to play in this unique community.

# Play your part

## **Teenagers**

Make music a bigger part of your life with free musical opportunities.

## **Music Educators**

From Free for Teens tickets to workshops, school takeovers to long-term partnerships, together we can help more teenagers play their part in life through music.

## **Supporters**

As a supporter and donor you can play your part in opening the door to orchestral music for thousands of teenagers.

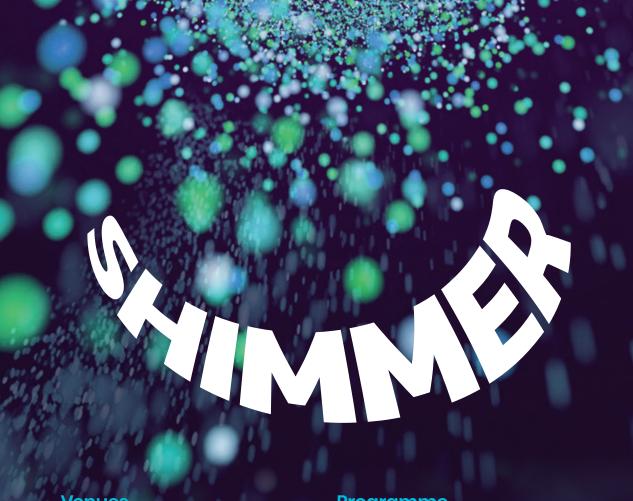
There's a part for everyone to play!

# Stay up to date with NYO

Scan the QR code to sign up to our newsletter and receive news and musical surprises from the NYO community.







## **Venues**

Sunday 4 January, 7pm Barbican Hall, London

Monday 5 January, 7.30pm **Warwick Arts Centre** 

Tuesday 6 January, 7.30pm Royal Concert Hall, **Nottingham** 

## **Programme**

Claude Debussy Ibéria

Karim Al-Zand City Scenes

Interval

**Anna Clyne DANCE** 

**Maurice Ravel** 

Rapsodie Espagnole

Alexandre Bloch conductor **Inbal Segev** cello

## Hello and welcome

Hello! My name is Aki, and as this year's leader, I have the privilege of welcoming you to Shimmer, the first tour of the year for the Orchestra of 2026.

When I was growing up my household was always alive with music, so I feel lucky that music has always been a core part of my life. A week before my fourth birthday, my mum asked me if I wanted to play the violin like my dad, or the piano like my mum. I distinctly remember being intrigued by hearing my dad practicing upstairs, and that was the moment I decided I wanted to play the violin. Since then, I've had musical experiences I'll cherish forever, leading up to this moment where I have the opportunity to lead this wonderful orchestra of young people.

NYO is unique, not only because of the huge sound we make, but also because of the work we do in radiating that sound with young people across the country. NYO gives tens of thousands of young people the chance to experience the dazzling power of orchestral music. For me, playing in an orchestra is an emotional rollercoaster of teamwork and joy. As a member of this orchestra, I feel responsible for showing other teenagers across the country what you can get out of taking on an adventure like this.

The music we'll be playing tonight is truly expansive. From musical landscapes to bustling cityscapes, this musical adventure will reflect the unique ambition and identity we have as an orchestra, and we hope you feel that here tonight.

Best wishes.

**Aki Blendis** Violin, 18, *London* 



# Images pour orchestre: Ibéria (1905-1908)

- 1. Along the streets and along the paths
- 2. The scents of the night
- 3. The morning of a festival day

French composers Debussy and Ravel were fascinated by the sounds and cultures of other places. Both composers were inspired by Spanish music, which in turn has been deeply influenced by Arabic culture. Arabic culture has been influential across Iberia since the Middle Ages. Iberia is a region which spans Spain, Portugal, France, Andorra and Gibraltar. This influence shows up in many parts of life in Iberia, including architecture, art and music – be sure to listen out for motifs or textures that sound particularly rich and warm.

Even though he only visited Spain briefly, it had a huge impact on Debussy. *Ibéria*, vividly conjures up the sights and moods of Spain. Spanish composer Manuel de Falla summed up Debussy's *Ibéria* when he wrote of its "atmosphere of scintillating light, the intoxicating spell of Andalusian nights... people dancing... dazzled by the power of an intense expressive and richly varied music."

At the start of the first section, rhythmic castanets – a Spanish percussion instrument with a distinctive 'clacking' sound – immediately transport us to Spanish soil, alongside winding melodies and orchestral textures that seem to shimmer in the heat. In Scents of the night, Debussy creates an intoxicating atmosphere suggesting the fragrance of blossoms wafting on the warm night air, while the last section, The morning of a festival day, brims with excited anticipation.



# City Scenes (2006)

Karim Al-Zand writes music inspired by a wide range of influences, including folk, jazz and Arabic poetry. He's composed music for dancers, and for younger audiences – such as *Parizade and the Singing Tree*, based on a collection of folk tales known as the *Arabian Nights*. Some of the music in *City Scenes* originated in one of Al-Zand's chamber pieces called *Tableau and Details*, which was written at around the same time as *City Scenes*.

City Scenes is a set of three short, interconnected dances that plunge us into bustling city life. The first dance is a raucous commotion of street sounds of a city waking up: thunderous percussion, blaring brass, syncopated rhythms and a jazzy phrase which crops up throughout the piece. The din eventually fades, taking us seamlessly into the second dance. This starts as a gentle haze of strings, harp, celesta and some delicate percussion, before the sun breaks through again and a gleaming cityscape is revealed.

The final dance starts softly but soon picks up momentum, building to the frenetic feel of the first dance as the city wakes and returns to its jostling thrum. The music swells and surges several times, each time gaining in intensity before speeding towards an explosive ending.



## Anna Clyne (b. 1980)

# **DANCE** (2019)

- 1. when you're broken open
- 2. if you've torn the bandage off
- 3. in the middle of the fighting
- 4. in your blood
- 5. when you're perfectly free

Anna Clyne started writing music when she was very young, completing her first composition at the age of seven. She regularly encourages and supports young musicians, mentoring composers through masterclasses and workshops, including as founding mentor for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's 'New Stories' programme.

Clyne's *Dance* was composed in 2019, with each movement named after a line of a poem by Rumi, a 13th-century Persian poet and mystic:

Dance, when you're broken open.
Dance, if you've torn the bandage off.
Dance in the middle of the fighting.
Dance in your blood.
Dance, when you're perfectly free.

Clyne's response to this poem is lyrical and moving, with an array of influences woven into the fabric of the work, including elements of Jewish and Irish folk music, and 18th-century classical styles. This may sound like an eclectic mix, but Clyne subtly blends these ideas together to create a unified whole.

The tender opening suggests large, open spaces: the cello's long, singing lines soar over gently shifting strings and winds. The sections that follow have distinct characters. From powerful and unpredictable energy to feelings of warmth and joy. The orchestral sound is full of subtle touches, often creating the impression of softly glowing light. The cello moves in and out of this spacious texture, sometimes immersed, sometimes floating above a serene sea of sound.



# Rapsodie espagnole (1907)

- 1. Prélude à la nuit ('Prelude at Night')
- 2. Malagueña
- 3. Habanera
- 4. Feria

Whereas Debussy's understanding of Spanish culture was second-hand, Ravel had a more personal connection with the place. His mother had grown up in Spain and was of Basque descent. Basque people are an indigenous ethnic group originally based in a region that borders France and Spain. Ravel was proud of this Spanish-Basque heritage, and it showed in many of his works, including the *Rapsodie espagnole*.

The Habanera emerged much earlier than the rest of the work. It was originally a piano duet, composed by Ravel in 1895. When he added the remaining movements, also in piano duet form, Ravel wrote them in just a few weeks in 1907 with the aim of turning them into a composition for a full orchestra as soon as possible. The result has become one of his most popular orchestral scores.

The Rapsodie opens with a Prelude at Night, with a descending four-note motif creating a haunting atmosphere. There are hints of an enticing dance rhythm in the distance, growing into a mesmerising serenade. The spell is broken by the second movement, the Malagueña, which evokes an energetic style of dance which is common in Málaga. A softer central section shades us from the Spanish heat, recalling the four-note idea of the Prélude. Then comes the Habanera with its languid melodic lines and distinctive dotted rhythms.

At last, in the final movement it's festival time at the Feria (a fair), with bullfights whipping the crowd into a frenzy. Ravel used another Spanish dance, the vigorous jota, for this movement. This energy is contrasted with glowing nocturnal passages in which that four-note idea from the Prélude returns. But the interlude is short-lived, and a vibrant spirit triumphs. Complex rhythms – which later influenced Stravinsky's Rite of Spring – run through passages of sparkling brilliance, the music building irresistibly towards its thrilling final bars.

## Alexandre Bloch

## What do you love about being a conductor?

What I love most about being a conductor is the constant dialogue between art, culture and people. Making music live, together with an orchestra and an audience, is a deeply human experience.

I enjoy the way it challenges every part of my brain, emotionally, technically and socially. That's what it takes to harness the unique power of an orchestra in real time.

I love all the different time scales at play: the focus of a two-hour rehearsal, the progress you make over a week's work and the long-term vision of building artistic collaborations over years.



# Which piece in the programme are you most looking forward to conducting?

What drives me is finding the inner flame in every piece I conduct, sharing it with the orchestra and amplifying that out to the audience.

The colourful music we will perform combines two contrasting contemporary works and two French masterpieces, and I'm thrilled to explore them.

It's particularly meaningful for me, as a French conductor, to lead the Orchestra in music written by Ravel and Debussy — to share this musical culture and pass it on to the next generation of musicians.

# You've conducted NYO a couple of times before, what does it mean to you to be working with the Orchestra again?

It's always a joy and an honour to work with NYO. Even if many of the musicians change from year to year, the spirit and the team remain wonderfully strong.

Working with young musicians is incredibly inspiring - their energy, curiosity and commitment are contagious.

# Why is it important for teenagers to play and enjoy orchestral music?

Playing in an orchestra teaches something essential: how to listen, how to collaborate, and how to build something greater than oneself.

It's a model for how society could work — everyone bringing their individuality to serve a common goal.

For young people, this experience is not only musical but civic. It shows that creation, empathy and cooperation are the true foundations of a better world.



## Meet the soloist

# Inbal Segev

# You've performed Anna Clyne's *DANCE* many times before, what unique energy do you think this orchestra of teenagers will bring to the piece?

I find that young orchestras have a fresh and unbiased love of music as well as enthusiasm and raw energy that is often unparalleled in professional orchestras. I also think that new music is best interpreted by the generation for which it was written and I look forward to our rehearsals and performances.

## What do you love about being a cellist?

The cello is my favourite instrument, after the human voice. Apart from the warm sound and the wide range of over five octaves, the cello is a good chameleon and can adapt itself to many different styles of music. From Bach to hard rock, from cinematic to capricious, to edgy and soothing.

# If you could share one piece of advice with teenage musicians, what would it be?

My one piece of advice would be to always try to learn and improve. Each concert is a preparation for the next and if you enjoy that search after beauty and truth in music, you are halfway there already.



# NYO Musicians under the Spotlight

## **Hazel Cheung**

Clarinet, 16, Shrewsbury

Orchestral music is all about listening, responding and working together. Playing with other young musicians has taught me how to collaborate, communicate and build something bigger than myself.

This is my first year in the Orchestra and I'm so excited to make powerful music with other passionate young people, perform on world-class stages and inspire audiences while growing as anartist and teammate. I want to help create an environment where everyone feels inspired to push their musical boundaries and celebrate each other's progress. I hope to challenge people's pre-conceptions about orchestral music (whatever they may be) and make it feel more accessible and exciting, especially for young people.

## Tara Sidhu

Violin, 14, Birmingham

I began playing the violin when I was eight, and it has been central to my life ever since. Whenever I play, I feel a real connection to myself, with others and the music - it takes me into another world. Playing orchestral music with other young people is such an exciting and electric experience!

As a member of the Orchestra, I hope to serve as a role model and inspire other musicians, whether that's through performing in concerts, visiting schools or participating in NYO Inspire activities. When I was in NYO Inspire, I remember looking up to the NYO musicians, and I aspire to have that same positive impacton other young musicians around the UK.



## Winter Orchestra List



## Violin<sub>1</sub>

**Aki Blendis** Leader 18, *London* †

### **Eve Ward**

Co-Leader 18, *Dartford* †

Seat supported by David Dutton and Mave Turner

## **James Jet Uttley**

Co-Leader 16, *Bingley* †

Seat supported by an anonymous donor

## **Dora Daisy Bottrill**

17, London

Seat supported by Rosemary Cahill and by Peter and Nina Hamburger in memory of violinist Kathleen Malet (NYO 1949-53)

## Tristan Mccardel

17, Norwich

Seat supported by The Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust

#### Lana Jackson

18, Liverpool

Seat supported by Venetia Jennings

## Imogen Gray

17, London

Seat supported by an anonymous donor

## Malcolm Wong

16, Glasgow

## Nirvana Che-Lai

15. London

#### **Ethan Shum**

16, York

## **Dan Robertson**

String Leader 18, London †

### Sasha Branch

15, St. Albans

## Mason Wang

16, Wilmslow

## Joshua Yin Zhen Tan

15, Stratford-Upon-Avon

## **Natalie Fletcher**

16, Prestwood

## Winston Eugene Lin 15, London

## Natasha Freedman

String Leader 16, *London* †

#### Oliver Michael

14, Lewisham, London

#### Sienna Whiteman

18. Belfast

#### Lilico Ueno

19, Woldingham

#### Violin 2

## **Noah Hacking**

Principal 18, *London* †

Seat supported by Guy Rigby

#### **Hugo Dong**

Co-Principal 15, London †

Seat supported by an anonymous donor

#### Sophie Sze

18, Sherborne

Seat supported by an anonymous donor and by The Joyce Fletcher Charitable Trust

## **Rachel Weston**

18, Peterborough

Seat supported by the Guyll-Leng Charitable Trust

## Carla Taeyeon Lee

16, Walton-On-Thames

Seat supported by Matthew Cain

## Rory Zweimueller

15, New Malden

## Jude Kingston

String Leader 17, *Carrickfergus* †

## Frederick Wilson

16, Alnwick

Seat supported by Michael Twaddle

## Samvid Sridhar

13, Richmond

## Holly Viner 15, Bicester

Seat supported in memory

## of Aletta du Plessis **Eric Jung-Hoon Park**

14. London

## **Phoebe Burgess**

14. York

## Benjamin Giliker

16, Buxton

Seat supported by Michael Weston and by The Reynolds Foundation

## Clarice Ngo

13, Sutton Coldfield

Seat supported by The Harrison-Frank Family Foundation

#### Yuan Mi

String Leader 16, *London* †

## Alexei Radchuk

14, London

## James Rippiner 15, Banchory

## Amelia Yang

13, Billericay

## Tara Sidhu

14, Birmingham

## Maria Nikolaeva

18, Sheffield

Seat supported by John and Margaret Richards in memory of Elspeth Gibb Webb and Josephine Richards

## **Viola**

#### Rebecca Wells

Principal
17, Orpington †

Seat supported by an anonymous donor and by Steve and Jackie Street

### **Kit Ross**

Co-Principal 16, *London* †

## Joseph Crown

16, London

## Jaye Lau

17, Liverpool

## **Sandy Reilly**

15, Edinburgh

## **Harry Rughoo** 18. *Potters Bar*

Carine Tsz Ying Ko 16, *York* 

## **Evie Cooper**

15, London

## **Thomas Blew**

String Leader 17, Dartford †

#### **Eleanor Hanson**

15. Huddersfield

Seat supported by Pat Moore

#### **Esther Law**

18. Wells

#### Ellen Heppell

16, Colchester

Seat supported by Julian and Caroline Nettel

## **Rose Trygstad**

16, Huddersfield

Seat supported by Rod Mullick

#### **Aigi Liu**

16, London

#### Izabela Ward

17, Coventry

#### **Kendra Wilberforce**

16. St Albans

#### William Ma

16, London

#### Cello

## Charlotte **Shlomowitz**

Principal

16, London †

Seat supported by Irena and Peter Milloy

#### Jamie Zweimueller

Co-Principal

17, New Malden †

Seat supported by Mary Iliff

## Dohyeon Ryu

16, Windsor

## Marharyta Dorosh

18, Winchester

#### **Austin Thomas**

16, Manchester

## **Emily Elliott**

String Leader 15, Islington †

## Anna Wilson

15, London

Seat supported in memory of Paul Morgan

## Hayden You

15, Cambridge

Seat supported by June Newman

#### Laurie Hawtin

16, Great Bedwyn, Marlborough

#### Louis Delstanche

String Leader 18, Whitley Bay †

Seat supported by Karen and Kim Papworth

#### Oliver Pearce

15, Old Colwyn

Seat supported by The Colwinston Charitable Trust

#### **Anabelle Redmond**

15. London

## Kalli Ziegler

16, London

Seat supported by Ian and Helen Hart

#### **Ruwan Dias**

15, Radlett

#### **Patrick Fourie**

15. Pollok

## Kiera Morgan

16, Abergavenny

Seat supported by The Colwinston Charitable Trust

#### **Alex Cham**

16. St. Albans

## Ana Benito De Valle

16. Lincoln

Seat supported by Amaryllis Roper

## **Double Bass**

## Callum Campbell

Principal

16, Glasgow †

Seat supported by Drs Charles and Jacqueline Ross in memory of Alex Ross

#### **Eduard Marcu**

Co-Principal 17, London †

#### **Rohan Malhotra**

15, London

## Prince Malachi

## **David Nwoke**

18, Ealing

Seat supported by Anthony Albert and by the Guyll-Leng Charitable Trust

#### Lucas Tao

14, London

## **Kevin Lee**

17. Thatcham

Seat supported by Ms Wyn Hart in memory of Gerald Brinnen

## Isla Macfadyen

String Leader 17, Aberdeen †

Seat supported by Euan Sutherland

## Jessica Ling 15, Leatherhead

## Millie Curtin

18. Great Chesterford

Seat supported by Drs Charles and Jacqueline Ross in memory of Alex Ross

## **Anselm King**

17. London

Seat supported by Simon Carrington and Alastair Hume

## Winter Orchestra List

## WOODWIND

## **Flute**

**Emme Hensel** Joint Principal

17, West Wellow. Romsey †

Seat supported in memory of Ian Senior

Hanhan Qu

Joint Principal 16, Guildford †

**Hannah Atkinson** 

17, Whitley Bay

Kaya De Sousa 18, Brighton

Seat supported by an anonymous donor

Alyssa Ilchenko 15. London

Zuzanna Kujawa

17, Glasgow

Seat supported by the Guyll-Leng Charitable Trust

Lara Omidvar

17, Bridgend

Seat supported by The Colwinston Charitable Trust

#### Oboe

**Alasdair Cottee** 

Principal 18, Dunbar †

**Natalie Denley** 

17, London

**Bob Hind** 

19. Sheffield

Vinchy Ho

18. Manchester

Seat supported by the Allam sisters

Nathan Ikechukwu Daniel

16, Purley

Hannah Maugham

17, London

Leah Wiseman 17. London

Seat supported by Tim Rollit Mason and

Vanessa Blackmore, by Howarth of London, and by The Valentine Group

## Clarinet

Yeung Lok Hang Jasper

Principal 18, Wells †

Seat supported by an anonymous donor

**Easher Austin** 14, Loughborough\*

**Evan Badcock** 

17, Bishop's Stortford

Seat supported by Richard Leaver and by Professor Alastair Watson

**Hazel Cheung** 

16, Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Seat supported by The Reynolds Foundation

**Maxim Eaton** 

18, Derby

Seat supported by Mrs. Noelle Mendelssohn Clarice Leuna 18, Nottingham

Seat supported by

Stephen Goldring

Ning Linn

17. Rochester

Seat supported by Faith Guthrie

## Bassoon

Nahuel **Angius-Thomas** 

Principal 17, London †

Seat supported by the Guyll-Leng Charitable Trust

**Felix Elliott** 

16, Biddenden

**Helen Howarth** 

18 Sale

Seat supported by an anonymous donor

Leo Jemison

17, Purley

Seat supported by Michael Waldman

Alice Mackenzie

17, Basingstoke

Katie Messenger

16, Beverley

Seat supported by Judith Line

**Martha Stanier** 

15, Chapel En Le Frith\*

**Katerina Vidouris** 

18, Guildford

# BRASS

## Horn

**Emma Sandford** 

Principal 17, Bromley †

Seat supported by Mark Ford and Stephen Metcalfe

Jacob Adams

Co-Principal 18, Penarth †

Seat supported by The Colwinston Charitable Trust

**Lucy Arbuckle** 

17, Glasgow

Seat supported by Michael Hopkins

Isla Eleanor Baines

16, Twywell\*

**Polly Bishop** 17, Harpenden

**Magnus Campbell** 

13, Glasgow

Melissa Hawkings

17. Norwich

Seat supported by Nigel Beale

**Rhona Langford** 

18, Glasgow

Seat supported by Brian Turnbull

**Toby Shewan** 16, Sully, Penarth\*

**Joey Walker** 

17, Staines

Seat supported by Roger Vidler

## **Trumpet**

## **Christopher Gibson** Principal

18, *Rugby* †

Seat supported by Ursula Jones and by David Richardson and Janet Hilton

### Elia Karim

15, Urmston

Seat supported by Paul and Emma O'Hea

## **Nerys Meeran**

16, London

Seat supported by Derek Mason

### **Louis Millar**

16, Nottingham

## Althea Ormrod

14. Betws Y Coed\*

## Anna Ross-Bell

16, London

Seat supported by The Marsden Family and by The Valentine Group

## **Ranulf Sauer**

16, London

#### Leo Stemp

17, Bacup

Seat supported by The Ayudar Foundation

## **Trombone**

#### **Jack Traynor**

Principal 17, Hamilton †

Seat supported by the Rock Solid Trust

## Llion Dafydd Barker

15, Pwllglas,

Seat supported by Paul Allam and by The Colwinston Charitable Trust

## **Toby Calvert**

17, South Cave

Seat supported by Juliet Maxey in memory of Robert Maxey

## William Evans

17, Upchurch

## Will Foster 17, London

## Michael Hickinson

15, Ballymena

## Haris Jacobs

17, Liverpool

Seat supported by the Rock Solid Trust

## **Rory Winn**

16, Sale

Seat supported by Nigel Long

#### Tuba

## Edward Falloon

Principal 18, Caerphilly †

Seat supported by The Colwinston Charitable Trust

## Yevindra Meedeniya Jayasekera

15, Highgate

Seat supported by Jonathan and Elizabeth Clowes

## Daniel Pryce

15, London

Seat supported by Anthony Albert

# PERCUSSION

## **Percussion**

## **Emily Hathaway**

Joint Principal 18, *Kilmacolm* †

## **Henry Jones**

Joint Principal 16, Edinburgh †

## Ellis Hollows

18, St Annes On The Sea

Seat supported by Catherine Turner

## Oscar Lond

15, Sleaford

Seat supported by John and Diana de la Cour in memory of Betty Ashcroft

#### **Max Manuel**

17, Risca

Seat supported by The Colwinston Charitable Trust

#### **Andrew Morris**

16, Macclesfield

#### **Lily Phanos**

18, Edinburgh



## Harp

## Olivia Clark

Principal 17, Reading †

## **Sunny Chan**

15, Royston

## Sigal Nachshen

17, London

## Kylia, Tsz Yam Pai

16, Nottingham

## Keyboard

## Jerry Liu

15,*Epsom* 

## Isaac Scot 17. Hereford

Age as of 6 January 2026

\* Winter Guest

† Leverhulme Arts Scholar. Seat kindly supported by The Leverhulme Trust.



# Play your part in sharing the music you love

The teenagers you'll see on stage tonight all share a deep belief in music's ability to inspire, uplift and bring people together. As part of the Orchestra, they are committed to sharing those possibilities with young people across the country.

As budget cuts in state schools put music education in peril, thousands of young people are being denied the chance to discover a deep connection with music and all it can help them become. Now more than ever, we are determined to reach those who don't have enough music in their lives. And every musician you see on stage is part of helping us that achieve that ambition.

By visiting schools and taking orchestral music to youth centres, they're creating connections and opportunity for young people across the country.

Every supporter, donor and member of the audience helps to make this happen – opening the door to possibility, no matter where they live or go to school. Your donation can help young people access free musical experiences – from playing side-by-side with the Orchestra or taking music into a school that has no music provision. Every activity helps make music a bigger part of their lives, and there is a part for you to play in making that happen.

Donate today by scanning the QR code, visiting nyo.org.uk/support-us, or calling the Fundraising Team on 0300 304 5255.



"The students were fully immersed in every moment, filled with genuine excitement and appreciation. It was a beautiful reminder of the power of music to bring people together and spark joy in others."

Malcolm, NYO Violin, on performing for 3000 school children in Blackpool



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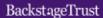








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The National Youth Orchestra would like to thank all the individuals, legacy donations, trusts, foundations and companies whose generosity and foresight enable us to do what we do.