

The National Youth Orchestra 2025

Saxophone Applicant Information

Hello, we're delighted you're looking for more information about applying for saxophone at The National Youth Orchestra. This information sheet provides you with the detail you need to apply.

Why join NYO?

Joining The National Youth Orchestra will open up your world.

You open the door to a room full of people who love music as much as you.

You open a chance to learn together with the best musicians in the UK – and play better.

You open up new ideas, new friends, new places to visit and new music to explore.

You open up your passion for music to other young people.

In fact, the Orchestra is only a small part of the adventure – because the biggest thing that you'll open up, is you!

Get involved. Play your part.

You will be welcomed into a nationwide community of musicians, where you will find a culture of mutual understanding, support and respect, in which everyone actively contributes to each other's wellbeing. You will play your part in shaping an inclusive environment for everyone.

You'll perform your music with, and for, teenagers everywhere – from concert halls to schools and surprising spaces and places. You'll make the music and performance your own, and work with leading creative innovators to develop your creative music skills, finding new ways to perform and present music.

You'll take action to open up music to other young people – sharing your skills and experience through [The NYO Inspire Programme](#) – making a difference to others.

Who can apply for The Orchestra?

Am I eligible?

- You need to be between 13 and 18 on 1 September 2024.
- You should be a British citizen or resident, or studying in the British Isles.
- We accept applications from musicians at secondary school, sixth-form college, university, or who are home-schooled. We do not accept applications from those studying full-time at a music college or conservatoire, or on a joint course with a music college or conservatoire.

Do I play well enough?

If you play your instrument at an advanced level of technical proficiency and musicianship, we want to hear you. The benchmark level to apply for the Orchestra is grade 8 and above – there is no need to have taken graded exams. If you're unsure, have a look at the orchestral excerpts, and if you feel confident playing these, we would love to hear you.

What are the projects in 2025?

NYO WINTER RESIDENCY		
Sat 28 Dec 2024 Fri 3 Jan 2025	<u>Residency</u> University of Warwick	Jaime Martin – Conductor Pablo Urbina – Associate Conductor
Sat 4 Jan 2025 Sun 5 Jan 2025 Mon 6 Jan 2025 Tue 7 Jan 2025	<u>Concert Tour</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbican Concert Hall, London • Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry • Nottingham Royal Concert Hall • Schools Concert, Venue TBC 	Ravel – <i>Bolero</i> Anna Thorvaldsdottir – <i>Catamorphosis</i> Nielsen – <i>Symphony No. 4</i> <i>"The Inextinguishable"</i>
Please note that some schools may restart before the end of the NYO Winter Residency Concert Tour. All NYO Musicians must take part in the full duration of this project. *Please ensure that you have permission to attend from your Headteacher. *		

NYO SPRING RESIDENCY		
Sun 6 Apr 2025 – Mon 14 Apr 2025	<u>NYO Spring Residency</u> Uppingham School	Joana Carneiro – Conductor Paolo Bortolameolli – Conductor
Mon 14 Apr 2025 Tue 15 Apr 2025 Wed 16 Apr 2025 Fri 18 Apr 2025	<u>Concert Tour</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Hall, Birmingham The Roundhouse, London Town Hall, Sheffield Bridgewater Hall, Manchester 	Programmes to include: Bernstein – Symphonic Dances from West Side Story Jennifer Higdon – <i>Percussion Concerto</i> Stravinsky – <i>Petrushka (1947)</i>
<p>The Spring Residency will feature two symphony orchestras touring to separate concert venues but unified by a single theme. Rehearsals will take place at the same venue and with the same tutors. During the concert tour each orchestra will also take symphonic performances to youth centres and make films of their programme.</p> <p>We do not anticipate that anyone will need to miss school to participate in the NYO Spring Residency.</p>		

What is the cost of a place in the Orchestra?

We invest over £10,000 in each NYO musician every year. In 2025 we are asking each musician to contribute £817 per residency. We work with our supporter community to help raise the rest.

NYO musicians will not be turned away on financial grounds. We understand that for some the level of contribution may be out of reach. Don't give up now, we want to hear about what you need: our bursary scheme is generous, considering both means and expenditure, aiming to help with some, or all, of the contribution. We can also guide you in applying to other organisations for funding help.

Those musicians invited to be part of NYO 2025 join a large community of supporters who champion young musicians and help fund your development in the orchestra. We ask you to make your contribution at the beginning of the year, which enables us to plan and widen the scope to include many more young musicians who need opportunities.

As an NYO musician you will have a role in engaging with and thanking our nationwide community of supporters.

How do I apply?

To apply for the Orchestra, please complete an online application (full details below) by the end of **Sunday 3 November 2024**.

What does the NYO saxophone recruitment timeline look like?

NYO saxophone applications open	Monday 14 October 2024
Application and video audition upload deadline	the end of 3 November 2024
Results emailed by	Friday 8 November 2024

What music do I need to perform?

- Please perform **one solo piece** of your own choice of around four–six minutes of playing in total.
 - o Choose something that highlights what you are capable of as a musician: your technique, your musicianship, and what you love to play.
 - o You do not need to play with piano accompaniment for your video audition, but if you'd like to, you are welcome to.
- Please play all the **excerpts** on the link [here](#). You will need a **password**: this is NYO2025Excerpts.

What if I want to withdraw?

To withdraw, please email orchestra@nyo.org.uk to let us know. It's really helpful for us if you can give us a reason, too.

The nitty gritty: application & video audition

How to make an application?

- 1) Create your NYO online account in our Musicians' Portal**
 - Visit <https://musicians.nyo.org.uk/>
 - Click 'Create Account' or sign straight in if you already have one.
- 2) Once you've created your account, email orchestra@nyo.org.uk** so that we can enable your access to the application form.
- 3) Completing the application**
 - You will need to work through the online form.
 - **Make sure you save each section** before you move on. You can come back to it at a later stage before submitting if you would like to.
 - In the 'Musical Tuition' section of the form, complete as follows:

NYO guide for NYO 2025 saxophone applicants

- **What instrument section are you applying for?** Please enter 'saxophone'.
- **Do you play any auxiliary instruments, e.g. piccolo, bass clarinet, etc.?** Please add the type saxophone you play, e.g. 'alto', 'tenor', 'baritone', etc.

Parent / Carer

There are some questions that you may need your parents or carers to help you with, including household income. We ask this information so that we are able to statistically report back to the Arts Council and other high-level funders. This is done anonymously. We may also use this data when 'matching' individual musicians with particular strands of funding that we receive.

Video audition: technical guidelines

We love watching your video auditions and seeing your passion for orchestral music radiate the screen! In order for us to assess each video accurately, it's vitally important that we can see you clearly on screen, in a bright-lit space, positioned centrally on camera with yourself and your instrument clearly visible.

Preparing a video audition can feel like a daunting prospect, but remember, we want you to showcase your love for orchestral music and gain a deeper insight into you as a person and as a performer. Our most important tip is to relax and enjoy the process. It can be easy to feel the need to record multiple takes of each piece, but try to treat it like a 'live' performance by practising and working hard and then aiming for your best effort.

Make sure you watch our preparation videos at the bottom of [this link](#) for more hints and tips!

The main technical points:

- You do not have to play your piece and excerpts in one take. You can edit together each element, or you can upload each section separately.
- You can film your audition using a handheld device such as a phone, tablet or via a laptop or desktop computer.
- When filming and recording, you should use only the internal microphone on your device. **Please do not use any external microphones.**
- Videos should be presented in their original form and not subject to any sound enhancement.
- Videos should be recorded indoors, in landscape view if possible.
- We want to offer support to those who don't have the equipment or technology. If you need help, please email us at orchestra@nyo.org.uk

How to film your video

- **Camera angle** – please be in the middle of the shot and face the camera. You and a large proportion of your instrument(s) should be clearly visible.
 - Try to have your face and embouchure visible and not hidden by the instrument or bell.
- **Lighting** – try using natural light (face a window if possible) or turn on a lamp and place it behind your camera. This will provide good lighting without casting too much shadow.
- **Background** – film your video in an empty or uncluttered background if possible. Make sure that your bed and personal belongings are not visible on video for safeguarding purposes.
- **Sound** – please ensure you film your video in a quiet setting. Recording indoors in a closed room usually projects better sound quality.
- **Checking before recording** – using the tips above, don't forget to test it out, check if you are happy with everything before doing the full take.
- **Start and end of a recording** – make sure that when you start and end your video, you leave a little pause so that it does not cut out the video.

How to upload your video

Saving your video(s)

Once you have recorded your video(s) please save them in the following format:

- **First name, SURNAME – Saxophone – Video** description (i.e. Complete video, Solo piece, Excerpt 1, etc.)
- Please include the name of the piece.
- If you have recorded your videos on a handheld device and are struggling to rename your video, it is often easier to email it to yourself (using [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) if it is a large file), rename it on a computer and submit it from there.

Uploading your video(s)

- Upload your video(s) via the instrument-specific upload link, which you can find on your excerpts document.
- You will be able to select single or multiple files to upload direct from your computer.
- This may take a while depending on the size of your files. We advise being connected to WiFi.
- You will see that it's uploaded, but you won't receive any confirmation email from Dropbox. Please be reassured that if you have applied and we don't chase you for your video, we have received it!

NYO guide for NYO 2025 saxophone applicants

If you are having difficulties uploading your video(s), please email us on orchestra@nyo.org.uk.

Any further questions?

Please email the team on orchestra@nyo.org.uk.