



## South West Youth Orchestra Application and Audition Guidance

Please read through the guidance and FAQs before submitting your application. If you have questions after referring to the guidance, please email [swyo@swms.org.uk](mailto:swyo@swms.org.uk)

### Who should apply?

- SWYO is for advanced level young musicians (defined as approximately grade 6+ or equivalent) with ties to the South-West region.
- Applicants for SWYO must play orchestral instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Percussion, Harp
- We are seeking applications from 13–23-year-olds primarily **but** we will consider applications from musicians outside of this age range on a case-by-case basis.

### Eligibility FAQs

#### **Q) My address is outside of the South West but I do have ties to the region. Can I apply?**

A) Yes, you can apply - please use your current address on the application form and tell us more about your ties to the South West in the box provided.

#### **Q) I grew up in the South West but am currently studying/living outside of the region. Can I still apply?**

A) Yes, you can apply - please let us know about your ties to the South West in the box provided.

#### **Q) I'm under 13/over 23 but have ties to the SW region. Can I apply?**

A) Our core age range is 13-23, but we will consider applications from musicians of secondary school age and above on a case-by-case basis - please explain why you're interested in the course on the application form in the box provided.

#### **Q) What if I haven't taken any grade exams recently/at all?**

A) No worries! Please indicate your level (e.g. intermediate/advanced) or estimate your grade (e.g. if you are working towards grade 8 but have only taken grade 4). Please make it clear if you are estimating a grade rather than stating a grade attained. Remember, your audition recording will be the most important factor in whether your application is successful.

#### **Q) I haven't played in an orchestra before – can I still apply?**

A) Absolutely, if you play one of the instruments listed above to an advanced standard we strongly encourage you to apply regardless of whether you have orchestral experience.

#### **Q) I don't play an orchestral instrument, do you have any other opportunities?**

A) Yes! South West Music School run a variety of other programmes for talented young musicians in the region – please check out our main website over at [swms.org.uk](http://swms.org.uk)

### **Application Open 28/04/23 – 02/06/23**

South West Music School (SWMS) is a charity (Charity No. 1138482) and registered in England as a company limited by guarantee (Company No. 7307202). Registered office: Bishop Fleming, 10 Template Back, Bristol. BS1 6FL



## How to Apply

To apply for SWYO 2023 you must do **both** of the following:

a) Email your completed application form to [info@swms.org.uk](mailto:info@swms.org.uk) by 23:59 02/06/23

**AND**

b) Send in your audition recording using WeTransfer by 23:59 02/06/23

### Step by Step Guide to Submitting Auditions on WeTransfer

Go to [swms.wetransfer.com](http://swms.wetransfer.com)

Click 'Upload files' and attach your audition recording

Enter your own email address in the 'Your email' field

In the 'Title' field, enter your full name followed by 'SWYO Audition' e.g. 'Emma Smith SWYO Audition'

In the 'Message' field, copy and paste the following declaration: "I [insert name here] declare that the playing in this recording/video is entirely my own" then list the pieces played on your recording

## Audition Requirements

- Applicants must submit a video recording of up to 10 minutes in length.
- The recording must showcase 2 or more pieces.
- You may play solo or with accompaniment; there will be no extra credit for playing with accompaniment and similarly, there will be no negative consequence if a piece that would usually have an accompaniment does not in your recording.
- Orchestral excerpts are allowed and encouraged as part of your contrasting repertoire.
- You may submit a section from a piece rather than a full movement, e.g. the exposition of a concerto/sonata rather than the whole thing.
- The recording must be entirely your own playing. We require a declaration of this upon submission.

## Application and Audition FAQs

### **Q) I don't currently have a teacher, what do I put in that box?**

A) This section is optional, there is no need to put anything if you can't or would rather not.

### **Q) I play multiple instruments, can I put this on the form?**

A) Great! You may list all the instruments you play on the form, but please list the one(s) you are applying on in order of preference and make clear what standard you are in each of them.

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**Q) I don't have access to professional recording equipment, will that affect my chance of being accepted?**

A) No, video quality will not be a factor in the decision process. A smartphone recording will be fine.

**Q) Who will decide where I sit in my orchestral section?**

A) SWYO tutors will organise the seating for each section. Please be prepared to move around different seats during the course - we aim to provide a broad range of experiences for all musicians.

**Q) How will I find out if my application has been successful?**

A) Once we have reviewed all SWYO applications we will communicate decisions via email - so please make sure you provide us with up to date contact details.

**Q) How much will it cost?**

A) For current SWMS students and SWMS alumni, SWMS will cover the full cost of a place on the residential course.

A) For successful non-SWMS applicants, we ask for a contribution of £30 per day, i.e. **£120 for the 4-day course**. Please note that £120 per head covers only part of the true cost of the course and is heavily subsidised by SWMS. However, if anyone requires financial assistance, please get in touch with Tracy Hill, [t.hill@swms.org.uk](mailto:t.hill@swms.org.uk) in confidence.

**Q) What does the fee cover and when will it be due?**

A) Our residential course includes full board (accommodation in one of Millfield School's modern boarding houses), 3 meals per day,, staff and tutor costs and hire of the venue and facilities, music and stands. Meals are provided by Millfield School in their dining hall, with light refreshments available in the boarding house. Millfield School is a nut-free site and their professional catering team provide several options at mealtimes, catering for all dietary requirements. Bedding is provided but students will need to bring their own toiletries and a towel. A kit list will be provided. The afternoon concert at the end of the course is free for friends and family with tea and coffee provided free of charge (free parking available).

A) Course fees will be payable in advance **by 1st August 2023**. More information about the course and about how to pay fees will be sent out to all successful applicants.

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