

Audition for NCO 2027: Key info

Who can audition for NCO?

All young musicians who:

- are aged 8-13 as of 31st August 2026,
- play an orchestral instrument
- are British citizens or live/study in the UK

We use grades as a guide to help us know roughly what standard children may be playing at, **but you do not need to have taken any formal grade exams**. A list of instruments and expected playing levels is available in our [Auditions Handbook](#).

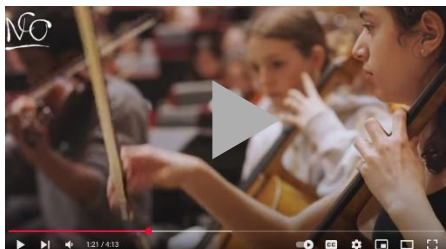
What happens in NCO?

We have over 700 young musicians a year who come together to take part in one of eight auditioned orchestras for amazing music-making experiences. You can find out more in our films below.

Our **auditioned** opportunities include:

- 3 orchestras for children from across the UK aged 11-14, who meet for 2 residential weeks during their membership year.
- 5 orchestras for children in different regions aged 8-14, who meet for 2 non-residential weekends during their membership year, in the North West, South West, the Midlands or London.

Discover Orchestral Weeks:



Discover Orchestral Weekends:



How much does it cost?

Our aim is that money doesn't create a barrier to a child hoping to take part in our activities. We want any young musician, no matter their background or circumstance, to have the opportunity to accept their offer of a place in NCO. **It is possible to have all or part of the fees paid for by our [Financial Support programme](#).**

Membership fees to take part in **two orchestral weekends** in 2027: £400

Membership fees to take part in **two orchestral weeks** in 2027:

Under 12 & Under 13 Orchestras £2200 / Under 14 Orchestra £2400

Find out more

Find out more about auditioning for NCO 2027 at our auditions webinar on **Sunday 31st May at 3p.m.**, where members of the NCO team will talk you through the process and answer any questions you might have.

Register your interest in attending here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pfd5W1f3TpKvy4McYJKjWg

We are here for any questions you may have by emailing auditions@nco.org.uk