

## What is the National Open Youth Orchestra?

The National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO) will be the world's first disabled-led national youth orchestra. NOYO aims to be a modern orchestra for the 21st century, where the belief is that diversity creates exciting new music – combining acoustic and electronic instruments, and transcending musical genres.

NOYO builds upon the success of a regional pilot-project, the South-West Open Youth Orchestra (SWOYO). In 2017 SWOYO won a Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award - the highest recognition for live classical music-making in the UK.

## Who is NOYO for?

If you're a young person aged 11–25, disabled or non-disabled, who is looking for opportunities to...

- Develop skills in playing with other young people as part of a diverse and dynamic orchestra where music is not only played from notation, but also learned by ear and improvised
- Hone your playing skills on acoustic or electronic instruments
- Collaborate with cutting-edge contemporary composers
- Devise or compose new music
- Play high-profile concerts
- Progress personally - meet new people, travel to new places and have fun

... then NOYO is for you!

There is still inequality in musical opportunities for young disabled and non-disabled people, so to help everyone, below are the entry requirements:

NOYO is for **young disabled people** with either physical impairments and/or learning difficulties who:

- *EITHER* already play music using acoustic or electronic instruments, *OR* already control assistive technology or a communication aid (such as an EyeGaze computer) to a standard that could translate to playing an electronic instrument such as the Clarion. Two examples of musicians who already play the Clarion are Bradley: <https://youtu.be/cDpnAU5C2NA> and George: <https://youtu.be/JVdvBRzKAwo>
- Have the potential to play live music with clear intent and focus
- Could feasibly progress to a career in music if there were no disabling barriers in the way - barriers typically include inaccessible instruments, music and a lack of appropriate opportunities

NOYO is for **young non-disabled people** who:

- Already play an acoustic or electronic musical instrument with fluency and flair
- Have the potential to play live music with clear intent and focus
- Could feasibly progress to a career in music

You don't need to have passed any exams on your instrument to apply for NOYO, because that could exclude many talented young people. NOYO Trainees and NOYO Members will be decided on artistic grounds, informed by the need to create a cohesive musical ensemble that can rehearse and perform both locally and nationally.

If you need any clarification about the recruitment process or entry requirements, please get in touch at [info@noyo.org.uk](mailto:info@noyo.org.uk) or call Doug, Musical Director at NOYO on 07508 317560

## What will NOYO cost?

Participation in NOYO is free to NOYO Trainees and NOYO Members. There are currently no plans to charge for NOYO.

## What will being in NOYO involve?

As a NOYO musician, you will need to:

- Demonstrate **passion, potential and perseverance**:
  - A **passion** for music
  - The **potential** to play a musical instrument with a high degree of control and expression, given appropriately accessible instruments, music and opportunities
  - A determination to **persevere** both musically and personally
- Be available to attend NOYO rehearsals, residentials and concerts, locally and nationally - explained in the *Application* section, p.5-6 of this document.

### Starting out with NOYO

All new recruits will initially start as **NOYO Trainees**. Trainees will receive one-to-one music lessons and pastoral support, becoming **NOYO Members** once they have developed the skills to participate in full NOYO rehearsals, residentials and concerts.

The time it takes for NOYO Trainees to become NOYO Members will depend on the circumstances of each individual.

### One-to-one tuition

As a NOYO Trainee or NOYO Member you'll receive regular one-to-one tuition on your instrument - at least **20 lessons** per year. If you don't already have a suitable teacher, NOYO will help provide you with one at a venue that suits everyone. If you have additional support needs, you'll need to be accompanied by a parent, guardian or PA.

### Small group rehearsals

Once you become a NOYO Member, you'll also participate in **10 small group rehearsals** per year, at your regional NOYO Training Centre (locations can be found in the section, *Where will NOYO be running?*, p.4 of this document). NOYO Trainees will join small group rehearsals when ready. Small group rehearsal dates will be announced at the end of June 2018. If you have additional support needs, you'll need to be accompanied by a parent, guardian or PA.

### Deciding on your musical instrument

Following the auditions (explained in the *Application* section, p.5-6 of this document) we will run a series of instrument workshops in July 2018 in London, Bristol and Bournemouth to identify, where necessary, accessible instrument options (including music technology) for individual musicians. Contributions by NOYO to the cost of accessible instruments will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Playing music

NOYO will play a range of accessible musical repertoire that is:

1. Specially written for NOYO by contemporary composers
2. Devised by NOYO Members and Music Leaders
3. Re-worked from existing pieces of musical repertoire

### Residentials

A Residential is where all NOYO Members get together for three days and nights to play music together and socialise. The first NOYO residential will take place at the National Star College near Cheltenham during the April 2019 Easter holidays. We ask that all NOYO Members must attend this residential. National Star College is a fully accessible venue set in the beautiful Cotswold countryside, with facilities to cater for young disabled people with a very wide range of needs. Young people with additional support needs should be accompanied by a parent, guardian or PA.

### Concerts

NOYO will give small scale concerts in 2019 with the aim of performing the first big concert in 2020. As performing is an important part of being with NOYO, we expect NOYO Members to attend the concerts. Young people with additional support needs should be accompanied by a parent, guardian or PA.

### Staying with NOYO

Once you've been accepted as a NOYO Trainee or a NOYO Member you can stay with us for the duration of NOYO, for as long as you're within the age range for NOYO participants (11 – 25).

### **Where will NOYO be running in 2018-19?**

For our first year (September 2018 - July 2019) we are inviting applications from young musicians who can attend NOYO Training Centres in the following areas (NB: you don't need to be from these areas specifically, you just need to be able to attend regular sessions there):

- London, EC2Y - in partnership with the Barbican and the Guildhall School
- Bristol - in partnership with Bristol Music Trust
- Bournemouth - in partnership with Bristol Music Trust and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

In future, we'll be setting up additional NOYO Training Centres. If you can't get to one of the training centres listed above but are interested in auditioning for NOYO in future, please contact us: [info@noyo.org.uk](mailto:info@noyo.org.uk) or call Doug, Musical Director at NOYO on 07508 317560

### **How many young musicians is NOYO aiming to recruit for 2018-19?**

- London - 5 musicians
- Bristol - 2 musicians
- Bournemouth - 2 musicians

### **Support**

We are committed to reducing financial barriers and, within our financial capabilities, to making sure that no one has to decline a position with NOYO for financial reasons. There is the potential for financial support to be given in respect of travel costs, PA costs, musical instruments and other relevant support necessary for training, residencies and concerts. This can be discussed with NOYO as part of the application process and will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

## How do I apply to join NOYO for 2018-19?

### Applications

1. To apply, please complete the online application form available on our website [www.noyo.org.uk](http://www.noyo.org.uk)
2. As part of the application, please submit a short film (1 to 2 minutes) of you playing your instrument (or using assistive technology/electronic communication aid), by following the instructions in the online application form
3. If you don't have access to a computer and would still like to apply, or experience difficulty sending us the short film as part of the application, please phone Doug, Musical Director at NOYO on 07508 317560

### Auditions

We appreciate that the word 'audition' can sound quite formal and intimidating, but that's not what NOYO auditions are like! It's simply an opportunity for us to meet you, to play some music together and to have a chat through whatever means of communication is most appropriate.

Before we invite anyone to audition we may first get in touch for a telephone conversation to find out more about each young person and to establish what kind of audition might be best.

We will let you know whether or not you are being invited to audition by 20th April 2018.

Auditions will take place during May and June 2018 as follows:

- London, EC2Y - Friday 11th May
- London, EC2Y - Saturday 12th May
- Bristol - Saturday 26th May
- Bournemouth - Thursday 7th June
- London, EC2Y - Saturday 9th June

We appreciate that in some cases it may be necessary to arrange very informal out-reach auditions where we travel to visit individual young people. Once you have applied we can decide this on a case-by-case basis in consultation with you.

We will notify everyone of our decision by the end of June 2018.

Here's a summary of the timeline for applications:

Date	Details
Before 8th April 2018	Send us in your application
Before 13th April 2018	Before we invite anyone to audition we may first get in touch for a telephone conversation to find out more about each young person and to establish what kind of audition might be best
20th April 2018	Invitation to audition
May/June 2018	Auditions
End of June 2018	NOYO Members & Trainees announced

If you are interested in applying to audition for NOYO and feel like you still have questions that need answering after reading this document, please feel free to contact us on [info@noyo.org.uk](mailto:info@noyo.org.uk) or call Doug, Musical Director at NOYO on 07508 317560