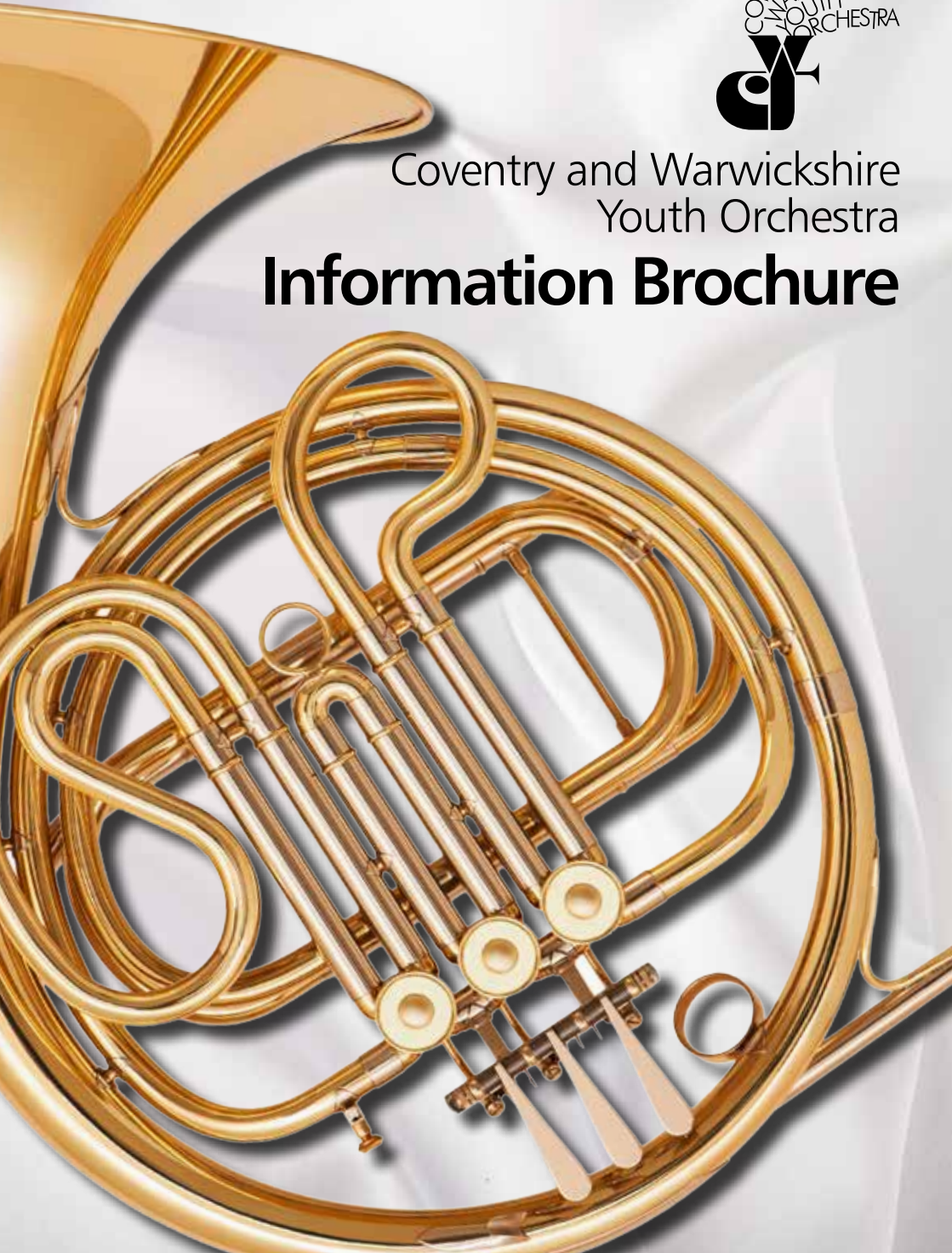




Coventry and Warwickshire
Youth Orchestra

Information Brochure



GENERAL INFORMATION

In its 54 years of existence, the City of Coventry Youth Orchestra has steadily grown in reputation and stature both nationally and internationally. In January 2015 it was joined by members of the Warwickshire County String Orchestra to form the new and exciting Coventry & Warwickshire Youth Orchestra organisation under the leadership of Brian Chappell.

The Coventry & Warwickshire Youth Orchestra is a groundbreaking partnership between the former City of Coventry Youth Orchestra, Coventry Performing Arts and Warwickshire Music.

The primary goal of the orchestra is to enrich the lives of participating musicians and audiences through the enjoyment of rehearsing and performing orchestral repertoire at the highest possible level. A result of this process of music making is that it cultivates in members their sense of responsibility, commitment, self-discipline, confidence and poise, key ingredients for success in any field. Members are encouraged to appreciate high standards of artistic excellence, which can support the individual's continuing musical understanding for a lifetime.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The orchestra is always pleased to welcome new members at anytime during the season providing there are vacancies.

Entry to the orchestra is by audition at which the candidates are asked to play a piece or contrasting pieces which they have recently studied, plus scales and arpeggios appropriate to their standard. They are also presented with a passage of music to be read at sight.

It is expected that string players will have reached Grade 6 standard of

the Associated Board or equivalent, although a promising Grade 5 student might also be considered on the recommendation of their instrumental teacher.

Percussion should be Grade 6 standard, woodwind and brass Grade 7, although just as with string players, a promising Grade 5 percussion student and a promising grade 6 woodwind or brass student might also be considered on the recommendation of their instrumental teachers.

ORGANISATION

Rehearsals

Every Friday evening during the school term from 7.00pm to 9.45pm at the Blue Coat Church of England School & Music College, Terry Road, Coventry CV1 2BA.

Weekends - 10.00am to 4.00pm at the Blue Coat School. These one day rehearsals take place in October, February and late June/early July, immediately prior to concerts. These are an integral part of the training programme and allow the orchestra to perform challenging repertoire that it would not be possible to prepare with only rehearsing on Friday evenings.

Concerts

Concerts are held in October, December, February, May and early July. On the day of the concert there is always a rehearsal at the venue.

A schedule of all rehearsals and performances (Sept - July) is sent to parents and players in August. The schedule is also posted on the orchestra's website - cyo.org.uk

Committee

The management of the orchestra is the responsibility of the director and his staff. The Orchestra's Parents Association pay the director who manages the orchestra, and this is done in partnership with Coventry Performing Arts and Warwickshire Music.

The Orchestra's Parents Association is a registered charity (registration number 502879). They are very active in helping to promote the orchestra by raising funds, providing assistance at concerts and rehearsals, and provide refreshments at rehearsals. They meet one evening a month (excluding August) in central Coventry. New members are always welcome. If however, you are unable to join the committee, but would like to help occasionally during concerts and rehearsals please let us know.

COMMITMENT OF MEMBERS AND PARENTS

Membership of the orchestra will be for the whole year. (Sept - July). Weekly rehearsals are specifically held on Friday evenings, so as to facilitate school work and exam preparation. The seating auditions in early September, held before the first rehearsal, determine where players sit within their sections. These are directed by the specialist tutors.

An outstanding concert depends on all members being present for all rehearsals and concerts. All absences have an effect on our performances. Members have earned a place in this outstanding orchestra and with this honour, comes the responsibility to the other members of the orchestra for attendance and personal preparation.

Members are expected

- to attend all rehearsals and concerts through the season.

If for any reason a member is unable to attend, he or she must notify the Director personally and complete an absence form well in advance. Absence should be for something the member has no choice over, a school event that they are required to attend or an important family occasion.

In the event of illness please notify the Director by emailing him at emailcyo@googlemail.com

- to be punctual at all times.
- to devote regular practice time outside normal rehearsals to the pieces being prepared for performance.
- to ensure that care is taken over music and equipment belonging to the orchestra. Loss or damage will be charged for. Any instrument loaned to a member must be insured by them.

Parents are expected

- to ensure that attendance and practice are priorities for the continued development of the member and the success of the orchestra.
- to support concerts and activities.
- to ensure that any instrument loaned to their child is appropriately insured.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Adverse weather and other unexpected circumstances (such as a heating failure) may very occasionally lead the orchestra to cancelling an activity. This will be announced on BBC Coventry & Warwickshire Radio (94.8 and 103.7 FM), on the orchestra's website - cyo.org.uk and on our Facebook page.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

- a silver coloured stand for rehearsals and concerts.
- a 2B pencil and eraser at all rehearsals.
- Concert Uniform
 - Plain collared black shirt/blouse with full or 3/4 length sleeve (no cardigans, vests, shrugs or bolero tops)
 - Full length plain black trousers - no jeans
 - Black socks & Black shoes - no trainers.

FINANCE

The principal aim of the orchestra is the attainment of a high standard of orchestral performance. It is therefore the intention of everyone connected with the organisation, that no person should be debarred from becoming a member through financial hardship, providing they have the necessary ability to benefit from membership of the orchestra and are prepared to offer the commitment required. Parents should talk to Mr Chappell where this is a concern.

The financial commitment on the part of parents is as follows:

- A termly enrolment fee is determined each year by the Coventry Performing Arts and the Warwickshire Music and collected by them.

For further information or clarification please contact:

The Director
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www.cyo.org.uk

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

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Coventry Performing Arts

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Warwickshire Music

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The Orchestra is a Registered Charity in partnership with

