

{MODULO} ORCHESTRAS
FOR
ALL



Kickstarting inclusive music-making
in state secondary schools and
local communities across the UK

WHAT IS THE MODULO PROGRAMME?

The Modulo Programme has been specially designed to assist music leaders to set up an inclusive 'Modulo' ensemble within their school or local community.

Orchestras for All (OFA) supports the Modulo leader by providing accessible arrangements, bespoke scores as well as advice and training throughout the year.

The main aim of the Modulo Programme is to create an environment where young people from any background can thrive and enjoy making music with others, regardless of what instrument they play, their previous experience or ability.

We support Modulo leaders to develop the skills and confidence they need to set up a Modulo, which rehearse regularly and explore new music.

Our longer-term aim is to help music leaders transform the musical offer in their school or community through setting up sustainable, fun and incredible music-making opportunities.

Modulo ensembles come together twice a year to form large-scale ensembles that include a wide variety of instruments and abilities.

In 2025, we will have four spring and four summer 'Meets', where young musicians can spend a day in an inspiring performance venue and have a wonderful time making music with others from around the UK.

The Meets provide memorable experiences for the young people we work with, giving them a chance to showcase their hard work and talents that have been cultivated within their Modulo ensemble.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Access to **Music Leadership Training** and **CPD**, online and face-to-face for all Modulo leaders



Online and telephone support from the Orchestras for All team



Modulo Meet attendance in person, throughout the year at higher education/arts venues across the country

Resources to get your Modulo started, including **scores**, **parts** and **backing tracks**

Youth Leadership opportunities

Unique arrangements and bespoke scores to suit all instruments and skill levels



Orchestral workshops in your schools/ community group, supported by professional musicians



Bursaries available (means-tested) to support programme costs and travel to Modulo Meets



WHO CAN TAKE PART?

The Modulo Programme has been specially designed for young people aged 11-18 and suits a wide range of groups, including (but not limited to):

- Classroom ensembles, KS3, GCSE or BTEC-level, suitable for all students
- Small groups of mixed-ability players
- Schools with no other music ensemble opportunities
- Groups made up of mixed-skill levels and instruments (think guitars, clarinets, keyboards, harmonicas and many more)
- A community youth group with a wide range of musical experience

All music groups are unique, so whatever your ensemble we would love for you to get involved and join our music-making community.

"Modulo is amazing because you have the opportunity to play in a group and you get to play pieces that you've never even played before!"
- Modulo participant

FAQs

What is Orchestras for All?

Orchestras for All (OFA) is a charity breaking down barriers to music-making for young people across the UK. It was founded in 2011 by Marianna Hay MBE and has since gone from strength to strength with its three programmes: National Orchestra for All (NOFA), Modulo and Music Leadership Training (MLT). Inclusivity, ownership and collaboration are at the heart of OFA's activity and its team strongly believe that everyone's voice deserves to be heard; we pride ourselves in being sector-leading in facilitating youth voice opportunities.

What experience do we want young people to have?

Orchestras for All aims to provide an inclusive, accessible environment for all the young people it works with. OFA wants everyone to feel comfortable, safe and able to be creative within the programmes it provides. When young people participate in its programmes, the goal is to develop young people not just musically but socially too, building their confidence and belief in their own abilities. Everyone has a place at Orchestras for All.

How many people can I bring to a Meet?

To ensure all ensembles can attend the Meets, OFA initially limits the numbers to 15 young people per Modulo. If there are places remaining once all ensembles have signed up, extra places can be allocated to those who have a higher number of young people wishing to attend. While the number of staff is not limited, it is advised that you stick to your policy for safe accompaniment of those in your charge. It is important to note that you set your own limit on how many people you have in your Modulo. Some Modulos have just five people, some Modulos have over 50!

How much work will it be for the Modulo leader?

We recognise and understand the challenges around workload for teachers and community workers in today's climate. The Modulo Programme is designed as a flexible opportunity for professional development and is never intended to be a draw on your time. In real terms, time must be spent rehearsing with your Modulo – perhaps one hour per week during term time. At first, you may have to drive recruitment for your ensemble (we have resources that can help with this), and ensuring regular attendance at rehearsals is vital for the success of your Modulo.

Throughout the programme, you will have dedicated online support from the Modulo Programmes Team, plus contact opportunities with other Modulo Leaders. OFA will provide all musical arrangements, bespoke scores and if required, ideas for how to run your rehearsals. Assistance will also be provided for organising your attendance at the Modulo Meets, if you have not run a trip before, as well as template letters and all necessary documentation for parents, carers and school leaders. If you have any thoughts on how we can lighten the load further for our Modulo leaders, we always welcome your feedback.



MUSIC FOR THIS SEASON



At Orchestras for All, we enjoy exploring a wide range of musical styles – from popular songs to classical music, film music to jazz, video game music to dance anthems as well as music from around the world – and we involve young people in every stage of our decision-making when selecting repertoire. Examples of our previous repertoire include:

- ‘99 Red Balloons’ by Nena
- ‘Merry-Go-Round of Life’, composed by Joe Hisaishi for Japanese animated fantasy film, Howl’s Moving Castle
- ‘Hornet’, featured in Christopher Larkin’s soundtrack for popular video game, Hollow Knight
- ‘Allegro ma non troppo’ – the first movement of Florence Price’s Symphony No. 1 in E minor
- ‘I Wish’ by Stevie Wonder

Young musicians from the 2023-24 Modulo cohort put forward their repertoire ideas for the upcoming season. The OFA team and Youth Board are currently discussing these ideas and the new programme will be announced soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS



SPRING MEETS

**Monday 10 February
2025 – Royal Northern
College of Music,
Manchester**

**Thursday 6 March 2025 –
Glasshouse, Gateshead**

**Thursday 13 March 2025
– Cecil Sharp House,
London**

**Friday 14 March 2025 –
CBSO Centre,
Birmingham**

SUMMER MEETS

**7 July 2025 – Royal
Northern College of
Music, Manchester**

**8 July 2025 – Royal
Birmingham
Conservatoire**

**9 July 2025 – Royal
Academy of Music,
London**

**11 July 2025 –
Glasshouse, Gateshead**

■ PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIES

"The highlight of my day was going off with the different sections and learning all the pieces in more detail."

"Modulo gives me an opportunity to perform!"

"I love Modulo because the people here are super nice and they'll help you no matter what skill level you are on your instrument."



"I enjoyed playing 'Hornet' because it's got a really upbeat feel to it."

"I like playing with the Modulo orchestra because you get to iron out all the mistakes together and with everyone else, you also get more of a sense of the music."



■ TEACHER TESTIMONY

"It has given them real life experience of playing in a big ensemble and the skills that involves. Today, in a choir rehearsal, a pupil involved in Modulo talked about leaving silence at the end and feeling the 'magic in the air' – something she learnt from [OFA conductor] Rocco. It seems some of the lessons they learnt have stayed with them."

"It was fantastic to see how confident they were playing with others. They really held their own and were able to keep up brilliantly. Some of the less able musicians gained in confidence and really learnt from the teachers!"



■ HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

We ask schools and community groups to contribute £250 to participate in our Modulo Programme for one season. This £250 fee reflects less than 10 per cent of the actual cost per school or community group to run the programme. However, we're aware this may be a barrier for some groups' budgets. If you can't contribute £250, this will not impact the success of your application. Instead, we'll explore fundraising ideas with you (previous groups have put on concerts or held sponsored practice sessions to raise money!) and if necessary, waive the fee to take part.

■ HOW DO I SIGN UP?

To learn more about Modulo and complete the sign-up form, please visit orchestrasforall.org/modulo-programme.

On behalf of everyone at Orchestras for All, thank you to Arts Council England, Department for Education, Foyle Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Scops Arts Trust, 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, Association British Orchestras Sirens Fund and Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust as well as our loyal donors and supporters for making the Modulo Programme possible.



CONTACT US

We're here to help and create a programme that works for your ensemble. Please get in touch if you have any questions, queries or concerns – we would love to hear from you.

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Orchestras for All is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (1150438)