

UK ORCHESTRAS CREATE SUMMER OF MUSIC MAKING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY

- ABO's #AnOrchestraInEverySchool initiative is highlighting music making opportunities over the summer holidays
- ABO pledges live music making experiences to over one million children and young people in the UK
- While schools are out for the summer, there are lots of ways children & young people can experience live music making



(l-r. Halle Youth Orchestra 2023 c. Naomi Benn; National Youth Orchestras of Scotland c. Sally Jubb)

15 July 2025, London. This summer, the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) is championing the impactful live music making activities delivered by its member orchestras as part of the #AnOrchestraInEverySchool initiative. When schools are closed for the summer, many children and young people will be without access to formal music making opportunities – but the music carries on beyond school. The ABO and its member orchestras, in collaboration with teachers and music educators, want to make sure that music opportunities are available for all children and young people throughout the year.

#AnOrchestraInEverySchool aims to enable access to live music making in all schools for all children. As part of the initiative UK orchestras and ensembles, in collaboration with music education providers, have set out to deliver over a thousand music making opportunities in 2025, with the aim of giving over one million children and young people the opportunity to experience the joy and power of live music, no matter their school resources, abilities or disability.

All across the UK, ABO members are running events for children and young people during the school summer holidays. From interactive performances and workshops, to the CBeebies Proms and residential courses for youth orchestras, there is something for everyone.

The Association of British Orchestras' Chief Executive, Judith Webster, says: *"While schools are out for the summer, a huge programme of holiday music making activities kicks into gear all over the country. We want all young people to be able to take part in or experience live music making, whatever music they are into and UK orchestras play an important part in providing that experience, along with dedicated grass roots music education providers UK-wide. The benefits for young people are widely*

documented but access is limited. Orchestras offer a huge range of activities throughout the year, from public concerts and open access events for families with no previous experience to youth orchestras for advanced instrumentalists. This summer, we want to celebrate the 'out of school' music activities that complement and enhance the vital music making in schools."

Kirsteen Davidson Kelly, CEO and Artistic Director of the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland, says: *"Youth orchestras are a vital part of the UK's musical ecosystem, offering young musicians the chance to collaborate, grow, and create breathtaking music. They help young people from all backgrounds discover the joy of making music together, building skills, confidence, resilience, and connections that can shape their future – on and off the stage. We understand the challenges children and young people face with limited opportunities to participate in live music making and believe youth orchestras are a vital way of supporting music talent and strengthening our industry for future generations."*

Naomi Benn, Hallé Connect Director at The Hallé in Manchester says: *"Being part of a youth orchestra is one of the most uplifting feelings – similar to a football team, or any team sport, every player has a role that is respected and vital to the overall collective success of the team. There is nothing quite like the challenge of embarking on new pieces of music together, learning not only the notes, but also the feelings the composer was trying to convey, and developing a shared vision as to how that music should be performed for audiences. This process creates an inclusive and supportive environment, and ultimately a huge sense of collective achievement."*

Touring is such a wonderful element of youth ensemble membership, and the joy of exploring new cultures together somehow brings a greater depth to the music, which can be heard and felt by the audience. It also creates life-long memories and friendships, and contributes hugely to young musicians' confidence and wellbeing. Tours involve a lot of work behind the scenes, but for me it is always worth it, and a privilege to witness the positive impact of touring for our youth members."

There is lots going on for children and young people in your region, with some highlights below. You can visit <https://abo.org.uk/what-we-do/championing/anorchestraineveryschool> to find your nearest ABO member orchestra and discover more about their summer activity.

London

- **Sinfonia Smith Square** in Westminster will be performing A Magical Bedtime Story as part of BBC Proms on Monday 25 August. More info [here](#)
- **Multi-Story Orchestra** in London to perform a concert 'Love in Many Forms' on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 August at Bold Tendencies, Peckham. More info [here](#)
- **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** in London to celebrate A Night at the Movies in a special concert on Sunday 31 August in Battersea. More info [here](#)

Midlands

- **English Symphony Orchestra Youth (ESO Youth)** in Bromsgrove (Worcestershire) will be performing their End of Course Concert at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire on Friday 22 August at 7:00pm. More info [here](#).

North East

- **Opera North** in Leeds to host Opera North Summer Side by Side on Wednesday 27 August at

10am – 3:30pm at Howard Opera Centre. More info [here](#)

- **The Glasshouse International Centre for Music** in Newcastle to host a workshop for families featuring singing, instruments and puppets on Sunday 27 July. More info [here](#)
- **Royal Northern Sinfonia** in Gateshead will be joined by CBeebies friends for a Wildlife Jamboree, as part of BBC Proms, on Sunday 27 July. More info [here](#).

North West

- **Chetham's School of Music** in Manchester will organise several events including
 - Leo the Lion at Lake District Summer Music Festival on Sunday 3 August between 11:30am – 12:15pm. More info [here](#)
 - Found in the Forest at Lake District Summer Music Festival on Tuesday 5 August. More info [here](#)
- Percussionists from **Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company** and In Harmony join the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra to perform in their Prom on Thursday 7 August 2025 at Royal Albert Hall (London). More info [here](#)
- **Hallé Concerts Society** in Manchester to host Hallé Musical Stars for early years families on Monday 4 August and Monday 18 August at St Michaels. More info [here](#)

Northern Ireland

- **Ulster Youth Orchestra** in Northern Ireland will host a summer concert following youth ensemble residential course on Friday 15 August at Guildhall, Derry and on Saturday 16 August at Ulster Hall, Belfast. More info [here](#)

Scotland

- **National Youth Orchestras of Scotland** in Scotland will be performing a Summer Tour that ends in Berlin for their first international appearance in ten years. Tickets for U18s are FREE. UK locations include:
 - Perth Concert Hall, Perth on Friday 1 August, more info [here](#)
 - Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool on Saturday 2 August, more info [here](#)
 - Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden on Sunday 3 August, more info [here](#)
 - Konzerthaus, Berlin on Wednesday 6 August. The concert will be streamed live on ARTE CONCERT and will be available in the media centre afterwards: arte.tv/concert
- **Children's Classic Concerts** in Glasgow are showing 'Django's Journey', a 30 minute concert film exploring the music of Django Reinhardt combining music and puppetry. This is free to watch and can be found [here](#).

South East

- **Chineke!** in London to host Chineke! Junior Orchestra Summer Concert celebrating Chineke!'s 10th anniversary on Saturday 23 August at Fairfield Halls, Croydon. More info [here](#)

South West

- **National Children's Orchestras** in Bristol to host several events including:
 - There's No Planet B Summer Concert where 12 and 13 year olds present their concert at

- Bridgewater Place in Manchester on Saturday 2 August. More info [here](#)
- Lights, Camera, Action concert where 13 and 14 year olds present their winter showcase at Bristol Beacon on Sunday 10 August. More info [here](#)
- Spellbound concert where 11 and 12 year olds present to their Spellbound programme at Portsmouth Guildhall on Sunday 17 August. More info [here](#)
- **Wells Cathedral School** in Somerset will be hosting several events including
 - International Wind, Brass and Percussion summer school for 10-18 year olds to develop their skills and confidence, to take place on Sunday 27 July – Saturday 2 August. More info [here](#)
 - International Jazz Summer School for 13-18 year olds to develop their jazz and improvisation skills, to take place on Sunday 3 August – Friday 8 August. More info [here](#)
 - International Strings Music Summer School for 10 to 18 year olds to develop their skills and confidence, to take place on Sunday 10 August – Saturday 16 August. More info [here](#)
 - International Vocal Summer School for young soloists preparing to embark on study at music conservatoires (16-19 year olds). More info [here](#)
 - International Songwriting Summer School for people with a basic ability to play their instrument and/or sing, to take place on Sunday 17 August – Saturday 24 August. More info [here](#)
- As part of the Whitchurch Children's Festival, **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** will be performing Curious Creatures & the Natural World on Saturday 26 July. More info [here](#)

- ENDS -

To find out more about how you can support 'An Orchestra in Every School', access the free resources, and find your nearest ABO member orchestra, please visit: <https://abo.org.uk/what-we-do/championing/anorchestraineveryschool>

For more information on the Association of British Orchestras' campaign, please contact Midas: hannah.bright@midas-group.com | henrietta.richardson@midas-group.com | (0)20 7361 7860

Follow the latest developments from the ABO via social media:
abo.org.uk | [Instagram](#) | [X](#) | [Facebook](#) | [#AnOrchestraInEverySchool](#)

Association of British Orchestras

The Association of British Orchestras is the national body representing the collective interest of professional orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry throughout the UK. Their mission is to enable and support an innovative, collaborative and sustainable orchestral sector by providing advice, support, intelligence and information to the people who make British orchestras a global success.

CLASSIC *f*M

Classic FM

Classic FM is the UK's most popular classical music brand, reaching 4.7 million listeners every week. Classic FM's programmes are hosted by a mix of classical music experts and household names including Dan Walker, Alexander Armstrong, Jonathan Ross, Margherita Taylor, Myleene Klass, Aled Jones, Stephen Mangan, Alan Titchmarsh, Charlotte Hawkins, John Humphrys, Moira Stuart, Ritula Shah and Zeb Soanes. Since its launch in 1992, Classic FM has aimed to make classical music accessible and relevant to everyone and in doing so, introduce an entirely new audience to the genre.

ClassicFM.com is the UK's biggest classical music website and has 2.5 million unique monthly web and app users. Classic FM has 7.5 million combined social media followers. Classic FM is owned by Global. It is available across the UK on 100-102 FM, DAB+ digital radio and TV, on [Global Player](#) on your smart speaker, iOS or Android device and at [ClassicFM.com](#). Source: *RAJAR / Ipsos-MORI / RSMB Q4 2023*.



Music Mark

Music Mark, the UK Association for Music Education, is a membership organisation, Subject Association, and an Arts Council England Investment Principles Support Organisation (IPSO) advocating for excellent musical learning in and out of school. It supports their members through training and resources, connects them with the wider Music Education network across the UK, and influences on their behalf at a national level. They champion a diverse, accessible, and government-supported music education provision to inspire and enrich the lives of all children and young people in the UK.



LIVE

LIVE (Live music Industry Venues & Entertainment) is the voice of the UK's live music and entertainment business. LIVE members are a federation of 16 live music industry associations representing 3,159 businesses, over 34,000 British artists and 2,000 backstage workers. LIVE works to ensure that the interests of live music in the UK are understood and communicated to Government, policymakers, regulators, the public and the wider music and entertainment industries.

LIVE

was

initially formed in response to the unprecedented pressure and devastation faced by the industry due to COVID-19 and is structured around four pillars: lobbying, economic analysis, messaging, and skills & diversity. Its work is driven by a series of sub committees on topics including festivals & outdoor events, venues, touring, people and sustainability.



UK Music

UK Music is the collective voice of the UK's world-leading music industry. We represent all sectors of our industry – bringing them together to collaborate, campaign, and champion music.



Musicians' Union

The MU is the trade union for UK musicians and represents over 34,000 musicians working in all sectors and genres of music. As well as negotiating on behalf of its members with all the major employers in the industry, the MU offers a range of services tailored for the self-employed by providing assistance for professional and student musicians of all ages.



Independent Society of Musicians

The Independent Society of Musicians (ISM) is the UK's professional body for musicians and a nationally recognised subject association for music education. Since 1882, we have been dedicated to promoting the importance of music and protecting the rights of those working in the music profession. We support over 11,000 members who work across all genres and disciplines with legal advice, comprehensive insurance, professional development and specialist services. The ISM is a wholly independent, non-profit making organisation.

Classical MUSIC

Classical Music Magazine

Classical Music is the only dedicated magazine and website for the classical music industry in the UK, with features, news and reviews for performers, agents, managers, promoters along with anyone with an interest in the music world. We provide unique insight into what's going on in the sector, with regular coverage of festivals, competitions, courses and concerts, as well as key career information for musicians and details of new appointments. You'll also find the latest job vacancies on our recruitment platform RhinegoldJobs.co.uk, from performing and administration roles, to teaching positions and conducting vacancies.

Classical Music has remained at the heart of the profession since its foundation in 1976 and continues to keep readers at the forefront of the latest developments in the industry.



Making Music

Making Music is the UK association for leisure-time music, with 4,000 music groups in membership, comprising around 228,000 hobby musicians. Making Music offers members practical support and resources, peer-to-peer connections and networking, and is the voice of the sector to policy makers and other stakeholders.