



NATIONAL YOUTH HARP ORCHESTRA

of Great Britain

Dear Student / Parent,

Many thanks for your enquiry regarding NYHO auditions.

About the NYHO-

The group was established seventeen years ago under the name International Harp Ensemble (IHE). During these years the IHE has been a professional training ground for harpists, providing them with invaluable performing skills and opportunities. The group has acquired huge recognition and praise for its outstanding performances across the UK and Europe to the extent that it has now earned the prestigious title The National Youth Harp Orchestra of Great Britain. This recognises the orchestra's importance within the music world on a par with other National Youth Orchestras and Choirs amongst others. As the name suggests, it is a privilege to be a part of a National Youth organisation as the players are selected on their talent and commitment and are considered to be of the highest calibre. They are after all representing Great Britain!

The harp orchestra is based in the South East of England but to make it more accessible to players from all over the UK rehearsals will predominately be on a Sunday approximately ten times per year. There will also be occasional Friday rehearsals three or four times a year before important events or concerts.

The orchestra performs at least two major concerts a year in prestigious venues (previous concerts have been at St John's, Smith Square and Cadogan Hall in London, as well as venues like the Yehudi Menuhin Concert Hall.) We also undertake an optional summer tour. Previous countries visited include France, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Hungary, Italy, Ireland & USA. In 2019 we will be travelling to Guernsey & Jersey.

Rehearsals and performing with the NYHO-

The orchestra is a very positive environment to learn and thrive in. Every musician is equal and as important as each other. The orchestra is very much a team. A strict rehearsal/concert discipline is maintained throughout the sessions, but there is also a great deal of fun and humour in Luisa's training style to bring out the best in the youngsters. At the heart of the orchestra is a very warm and caring community. This ethos is held very dear to orchestra members and their supporters. It is a testament to the orchestra that members often return after University or College as mentors as the orchestra has become a special part of their lives.

The applicant will need to enjoy working as a team, making friends and be able to cope and adapt to new and exciting challenges. New members and their family will be made most welcome.

Training Harp Orchestra-

We now have an established training section for youngsters who are grades 1-4. These members will naturally feed into the senior group when they are ready. The group will meet an hour before the senior group to rehearse and then will be encouraged to stay on and rehearse for an hour with the senior group for joint repertoire.

The Audition-

These will take place on 15th September at Reigate Grammar School. As we are holding solo and workshop auditions so please allow all day for this. We will try to give more precise timings a fortnight before and we will try to accommodate those that are travelling from a long distance away.

What to bring to the audition and what to expect-

Please bring your own harp, music stand, stool and the music you are going to play. Please prepare one piece for a solo audition. It is best to play something you really enjoy and know very well. The audition panel will consist of the orchestra's founder and Musical Director, Luisa Cordell, plus up to two other professional musicians. There will also be a quick discussion at the end of your performance to talk about your musical endeavours so far, and to find out more about you. Please also feel free to ask us questions.

In addition, you will also be sent some extracts of current orchestra music approximately a fortnight before which we would ask you to prepare for a workshop with some current members. I hope the audition experience will feel relaxed and not an ordeal. After all, we want you do your best and show us what you are capable of!

What costs are involved?-

There is a nominal fee of £30 to audition to contribute to administration costs. After that, if you are offered a place in the orchestra there will be a subscription of £300.00 per year (£250.00 for the training orchestra, plus a one-off membership fee of £100.00 to be paid at the start of your first year. In order to encourage all students to apply regardless of financial circumstances we also offer a bursary scheme. If you would like details of this, please email us at the address below. It is also essential that each member has their own harp insurance and we will need a copy of your certificate to keep on file.

Thank you once again for your interest. If you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@nyho.org.uk

Kind regards,

Jamie Cordell B.Mus (Hons) PGDip

Chairman, (Managing Committee)

Postal address: NYHO, Friday Farm, Friday Street, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4QA. Please return the audition form together with your cheque for £30 made payable to National Youth Harp Orchestra by 30th August to this address.