

Music Service Central Ensembles 2018-19

BRASS BANDS

TRAINING BRASS BAND	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Saphran Ali	Grade 2	Thursday	6.00 – 7.45pm	University of Birmingham School Weoley Park Road B29 6QU

This ensemble comprises all brass instruments (including French horns) and provides parts for trombones and tubas in both treble and bass clefs. TBB offers the opportunity to young brass players to rehearse and perform a variety of exciting repertoire. Players normally progress from this ensemble into the Concert Brass Band, Training Wind Orchestra, Training Jazz Ensemble or Concert Band.

CONCERT BRASS BAND	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Peter Fisher	Grade 4	Monday	6.30 – 8.45pm	Kings Norton Boys' School Northfield Road B30 1DX

This ensemble comprises all brass band instruments. CBB offers the opportunity to intermediate/developing brass players to rehearse and perform dynamic brass band repertoire that is both traditional and modern.

BRASS BAND	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Stuart Birnie Patron: Steven Mead	Grade 6	Thursday	6.45 – 9.00pm	Services for Education Holt Court, Holt Street B7 4AX

Our senior Brass Band owns a complete set of professional quality instruments that consist of Soprano Cornet, Cornet, Flugelhorn, Tenor Horn, Baritone, Tenor and Bass Trombone, Euphonium and Eb and Bb Tubas. All members are able to have a free loan of these excellent instruments. A number of performances are undertaken each year.

GUITAR ENSEMBLES

TRAINING GUITAR ENSEMBLE	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Adam Hickman	Grade 2-3	Thursday	6.00 – 7.30pm	St Luke's Church Centre Great Colmore Street B15 2AT

Formed in September 2009 the group aims to provide an engaging ensemble experience for guitarists working between Grades 2–3. Although Classical technique and posture are used, the repertoire covers a wide variety of styles and the group enjoy collaborating with different ensembles. The group members are aged 8–13 years and give a minimum of two concerts each year at venues including Symphony Hall.

GUITAR SINFONIA	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Jamie Fekete	Grade 4	Thursday	6.00 – 8.00pm	St Luke's Church Centre Great Colmore Street B15 2AT

Although players use its own set of Spanish guitars, and adopt classical posture and technique, various styles of music are rehearsed and performed, including Folk, Jazz and Ragtime, as well as traditional Spanish and Flamenco guitar repertoire. Each year the group has at least two opportunities to perform.

GUITAR ENSEMBLE	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Nick Chamberlain Patron: Simon Dinnigan	Grade 6	Thursday	6.00 – 8.00pm	St Luke's Church Centre Great Colmore Street B15 2AT

This ensemble, age range 13 – 18, plays a wide range of repertoire and includes larger works in classical style, as well as arrangements of popular standards and contemporary works. Each year the group have many opportunities to perform. A good knowledge of chords is useful.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

TRAINING JAZZ ENSEMBLE	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Paul Douglas	Grade 4	Monday	6.30 – 8.30pm	Services for Education Holt Court, Holt Street B7 4AX

This group comprises a standard Big Band instrumentation, and provides an opportunity for less experienced players to develop basic skills in jazz playing and improvisation in a Big Band context. Rhythm section players should be able to read music. The age range is from 11 - 18.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: John Ruddick MBE	Grade 6+	Monday	6.30 – 8.30pm	Services for Education Holt Court, Holt Street B7 4AX

The ensemble, age range 15-19, covers a wide range of big band styles, and develops high level skills in jazz playing and improvisation. Pianists should be Grade 7-8 standard, with an understanding of harmonic progressions, and rhythm section players should have a well-developed technique, and be good music readers.

PERCUSSION & WORLD MUSIC

TRAINING PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Sarah Chatt	Grade 2	Tuesday	5.15 – 6.30pm	Kings Norton Boys' School Northfield Road B30 1DX

This group play specialised repertoire, enabling members to learn extended techniques on a wide variety of instruments, including marimba, vibraphone, orchestral and ethnic percussion. Several performances are given each year.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Victoria Lee	Grade 5+	Tuesday	6.30 – 8.30pm	Kings Norton Boys' School Northfield Road B30 1DX

The senior percussion group plays advanced specialised repertoire, enabling them to learn extended techniques on a wide variety of instruments, including marimba, vibraphone, orchestral and ethnic percussion. Several performances are given each year.

AZAAD DHOL GROUP	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Director: Harjit Singh	Grade 2+	Monday	5.00 – 6.00pm	Hamstead Hall Academy Craythorne Avenue B20 1HL

This group caters for Intermediate to Advanced level players of Dhol. ADG have performed locally and nationally all over the UK; they have also appeared on Howard Goodall's music series on Channel 4 and the Guinness Book of Records in May 2009 with 632 drummers. The age range is 10 – 18.

STEEL BAND	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Director: Stephon Phillip	Advanced	Monday	5.30 – 6.45pm	Kings Norton Primary School Pershore Rd South B30 3EU
		Wednesday	5.30 – 6.45pm	Sacred Heart Catholic School, Earlsbury Gardens B20 3AE

The Steel Band caters for more advanced steel pan players who will have previously attended Kings Norton or North Area Steel Bands. Members of the two groups combine for several performances a year.

STRING ORCHESTRAS & FULL ORCHESTRAS

JUNIOR STRING ORCHESTRA	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Kirsteen Scott	Grade 3	Saturday	9.15 – 11.45am	City Road Primary Academy Cavendish Road B16 0HL

String players may audition up to and including Year 6 for this orchestra. There is a 'friendly and fun' approach in order to encourage members to develop into confident orchestral string players. The musicians enjoy many different styles of music including popular classics, TV & film scores, and original compositions.

STRING SINFONIA	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Ed Smith	Grade 4-5	Saturday	9.30am – noon	City Road Primary Academy Cavendish Road B16 0HL

Many pupils progress to this ensemble from Junior String Orchestra. The age range is 10 – 16, and the music played covers many styles from Baroque, Classical and Romantic to more recent popular music, including film and TV themes, as well as original compositions.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Bob Vivian	Grade 6	Saturday	9.30am – 12.30pm	King Edward VI Girls School Rosehill Rd, Handsworth B21 9AR

This large orchestra performs a varied and contrasting repertoire of film, TV and show music, as well as light popular classics. Concert Orchestra has performed in many famous concert halls including the Royal Festival Hall and the Royal Albert Hall in London.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Kate Sidhu Patrons: The Stringcredibles	Grade 7	Saturday	9.45am – 12.15pm	King Edward's School for Girls Edgbaston Park Road B15 2UB

This is a smaller group for advanced string players, playing some of the classic chamber music repertoire from different periods. Several high profile performances are given each year.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: TBC Patron: Sir Simon Rattle OM OBE	Grade 7	Saturday	9.30am – 12.30pm	King Edward's School for Girls Edgbaston Park Road B15 2UB

Symphony Orchestra has a national reputation for quality performances of standard orchestral repertoire, often with professional guest soloists. The orchestra has performed in many major venues, including the Royal Festival Hall and the Royal Albert Hall in London, as well as the Conservatoire, University and Symphony Hall in Birmingham. In addition to weekly rehearsals, there is an annual weekend residential in the first term, and recent concert tours have included Estonia (2012), Germany (2014), Spain (2016), Czech/Slovak Republics (2018).

VOCAL GROUP

SINGERS	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Ruth Roberts	see below	Sunday Wednesday	11am – 4pm evenings	Services for Education Holt Court, Holt Street B7 4AX

This is an auditioned choir of vocal students in years 8–13. They meet a few times a term for rehearsal workshop days or evenings. They are a high-energy group of vocalists keen to achieve their vocal potential. Vocalists have the opportunity to develop, stage and perform a wealth of traditional and contemporary repertoire. Members need to have had experience in singing in choirs and vocal training to participate. Singing in parts and reading music is developed in rehearsals.

RECORDER ENSEMBLES

RECORDER ENSEMBLE	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Karen Moore	Grade 1+	Saturday	9.30am – 11.30am	University of Birmingham School Weoley Park Road B29 6QU

This is a friendly, young group who play a matched set of recorders provided by the Music Service. The players vary in age from 8 - 13, and are approximately Grade 1 - 4 in standard. The ensemble plays many varied styles of music scored for descant, treble and tenor recorders, and takes part in several concerts every year.

RECORDER SINFONIA	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Michelle Holloway	Grade 5+	Saturday	9.30am – noon	University of Birmingham School Weoley Park Road B29 6QU

Recorder Sinfonia is a tightly knit ensemble, which rehearses and performs a varied repertoire, from the 16th Century to the avant-garde, including specially commissioned works. The Music Service provides a matching set of wooden recorders from the tiny 'Garkleinflötlein' to the Contra Bass.

WIND ORCHESTRAS

TRAINING WIND ORCHESTRA	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Charlotte Buxton	Grade 3	Saturday	9.30am – noon	Selly Park Tech College for Girls Selly Park Road B29 7PH

This ensemble, with normal wind orchestra instrumentation (woodwind, brass and percussion) will, for most of the players, provide their first experience in a full size wind orchestra after playing in an Area Ensemble. A wide range of musical styles are explored and a number of concerts given through the year.

CONCERT BAND	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Peter Fisher	Grade 4	Saturday	9.30am – noon	St Paul's School for Girls Vernon Road B16 9SL

This intermediate group comprises 65 players with full wind orchestra instrumentation, including percussion. The band covers a wide variety of styles, and gives several public performances during the academic year.

WIND ORCHESTRA	Entry Standard	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time	Rehearsal Venue
Conductor: Adrian Taylor	Grade 5+ Grade 6+	Saturday	9.30am – 12.30pm	University of Birmingham School Weoley Park Road B29 6QU

This orchestra comprises full woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, and plays a wide range of musical styles, including original compositions, arrangements of well-known orchestral items, as well as more popular concert band pieces. The entry standard is Grade 5 for brass players and Grade 6/7 for woodwind players.