



*Members Handbook  
and Constitution*

*2024-2025*

## **Welcome to the orchestra...**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to The New Streetly Youth Orchestra. We hope that you will find your time with us enjoyable.

This handbook has been put together to give you a brief insight into the background of the orchestra, how it operates and some of the guidelines we have adopted. These guidelines have been developed to help the smooth running of the orchestra and ensure that everyone gains full benefit from the limited rehearsal time we have available.

Remember, it is our Orchestra! We take pride in being an inclusive and creative community and believe that there is no such thing as a bad idea.

If you have any comments or suggestions in respect to any aspect of the orchestra we would be delighted to hear them.

## **Background information**

The New Streetly Youth Orchestra is a non-profit making association that aims to further the musical education of musicians of varying ages and abilities through regular rehearsal and performance.

The orchestra was originally founded in 1991 and has grown from strength to strength attracting members from across Birmingham, Walsall and Staffordshire. There are no age limits or specific entry restrictions; all you need is enthusiasm and dedication. Our more experienced players are encouraged to help mentor and support younger members. Our diverse repertoire is intended to promote the enjoyment of performance with music that includes popular classics, showtunes, and film soundtracks.

The orchestra benefits from the guidance and support from a team of voluntary tutors. All tutors give up their time and energy for free to help lead rehearsals.

The orchestra also benefits from the support of a number of friends and volunteers who offer support in the management of rehearsals and events.

## **Key Contacts**

Phone	-	07958 389 445
Email	-	<a href="mailto:mail@nsyo.org.uk">mail@nsyo.org.uk</a>
X (Twitter)	-	@nsyo

## **WhatsApp**

The orchestra has a WhatsApp group that is used to provide key information and updates. Each member should nominate at least one primary point of contact to be added to the group.

## **Website: [www.nsyo.org.uk](http://www.nsyo.org.uk)**

The website also features a member's portal through which you can manage your membership details and make payments. Reminders to renew your membership will be sent out either termly or annually dependent on your payment preference, please keep your contact details up to date.

## **Admission to membership**

The orchestra welcomes new members throughout the year; musicians should be competent at sight reading music and playing their chosen orchestral instrument.

All members are expected to conform to the orchestra's rules outlined in this handbook. We also rely on members to help promote the orchestra. Please help us in creating and maintaining an image that we can all be proud of.

## **Rehearsals, concerts and social events**

Rehearsals take place at Streetly Methodist Church, 7pm to 9pm on Wednesday evening during term time.

The orchestra performs at various concerts and community events throughout the year. It is essential that every member makes the effort to be present at these as substitutes are difficult to find. Any member who is aware that he/she will not be available for a concert should give adequate notice that they are unable to attend.

Social events and activities may also be organised from time to time.

**We hope you enjoy your time at the orchestra**

## **Membership guidelines**

We kindly ask that all members adhere to these guidelines. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in you being asked to leave the orchestra:

- Act in accordance with our [Code of Behaviour](#) and [Safeguarding policy](#) as published on our website.
- Attend rehearsals regularly and promptly.
- Any physical copies of music taken home to practice should be returned the following week, even if you can not attend rehearsal.
- Take care of your own instrument(s) as the orchestra will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
- Take care of music, equipment and instruments belonging to the orchestra or that of any other member.
- Do not play your instrument or talk whilst the conductor is explaining a point of interest or rehearsing another section of the orchestra.
- Listen carefully to instruction to save repetition or misunderstanding.
- Do not use your mobile phone during rehearsals
- Return promptly at the end of break periods
- Do not leave litter in the rehearsal / changing room.
- Return music to the correct folder when finished with.
- Assist at the end of rehearsals by putting away chairs and music stands.

**If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to make the orchestra even better please let us know: [mail@nsyo.org.uk](mailto:mail@nsyo.org.uk)**