

# Sutton Music Service



2017

Ensembles welcome pack



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# Ensembles welcome pack

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## Sutton Music Service

As lead partner in the Sutton Music Hub, Sutton Music Service works with a range of partner organisations to create all kinds of opportunities for children and young people in the London Borough of Sutton to have an excellent, high-quality music education. Supported using public funding from the Department for Education and Arts Council England, we are tasked with delivering the aspirations of the National Plan for Music Education.

Thousands of children gain their first experience of learning to play a musical instrument through our successful 'First Access' Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) programme. Many more access high-quality instrumental tuition through our self-employed Approved Instrumental Teacher scheme at local schools and academies across Sutton and through our Wednesday and Saturday Music Schools. Our ensembles provide opportunities for young musicians to progress through our structure of bands and orchestras. We work with local schools to support and augment music provision, develop a Singing Strategy and offer an extensive and affordable instrument loan service.

Having recently left the local authority as part of a wide ranging spin out, Sutton Music Service now exists as part of Sutton Education Services Ltd, the leading local provider of education support services to local schools and academies, and continues to work closely with the London Borough of Sutton.

Lewis Gibbs  
Head of Music Service

## Senior Leadership Team

Lewis Gibbs, Head of Music Service  
Hannah Taylor, Senior Leader for First Access (WCET) & specialist instrumental provision  
Emily Murphy, Senior Leader for singing & vocal development  
Khadija Dero, Ensembles Coordinator  
Sylvie Bennett, Music Service Administrator

## Contact information

Sutton Music Service, Gaynesford Lodge, Blake Close, Carshalton SM5 1LJ  
Tel 020 8640 8781 email [info@suttonmusicservice.org.uk](mailto:info@suttonmusicservice.org.uk)  
Website [www.suttonmusicservice.org.uk](http://www.suttonmusicservice.org.uk)

For all ensemble enquiries, please contact Khadija Dero, Ensembles Coordinator  
Mobile 07857 987334 email [kdero@suttonmail.org](mailto:kdero@suttonmail.org)

# What is an ensemble?

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Why learn to play a musical instrument if you then don't use it? Our ensembles are bands and orchestras where children and young people come together to have fun and make music in a safe environment with the support of expert Sutton Music Service tutors and conductors. Playing in an ensemble helps young musicians progress on their instrument, boosts confidence and team working skills and can inspire a life-long love of music and performance.

*Definition:*

## **Ensemble** *noun*

**a group of things or people acting or taken together as a whole, especially a group of musicians who regularly play together**

Sutton Music Service provide a range of bands and orchestras for players of string, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Weekly rehearsals take place during term time, with a concert at the end of each term, which all ensemble members are expected to participate in. There are also regular opportunities to take part in collaborative projects with professional musicians, weekend music courses and an annual European concert tour.

Rehearsals take place on weekday afternoons/evenings during term time at St Andrew's Church, Northey Avenue, Cheam SM2 7HF.

**Mondays**      4.45-5.45pm Young Musicians String Group (YMSG) *beginner*  
                    5.00-6.00pm Sutton Youth Training Band (SYTB) *beginner*  
                    6.00-7.00pm Young Musicians Training Orchestra (YMTO) *intermediate*

**Tuesdays**    5.00-6.00pm Sutton Youth Symphonic Band (SYSB) *intermediate*  
                    6.15-8.15pm Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra (SYWO) *advanced*

**Fridays**        4.45-6.15pm Young Musicians Orchestra (YMO) *intermediate*  
                    5.30-8.00pm Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO) *advanced*

Fees for membership of ensembles are paid termly with no reduction for missed rehearsals. Current fees are £58.00 per term and £29.00 for siblings. Fees for the first term must be paid on the first attendance at rehearsal. In subsequent terms, you'll receive an invoice from us.

## **Beginner ensembles**

Our beginner ensembles are suitable for most young musicians after 2-3 terms' tuition and no audition is required. As a guide, these ensembles are generally best suited to young musicians of around initial/preparatory grade to Grade 3 ability on their instrument. Most young musicians joining an ensemble for the first time will require some support from their instrumental teacher in their regular lessons. It's worth speaking to the instrumental teacher about whether they feel your child is ready to take this step and what support they might require. If you're not sure, your child can always come along to a free trial session – it's generally best to do this at the start of a term.

String players will usually start in Young Musicians String Group (YMSG). Woodwind, brass and percussion players will usually start in Sutton Youth Training Band (SYTB). We expect young musicians joining our beginner level ensembles to have basic note reading skills with an awareness of some chromatic notes. They should also have a basic knowledge of note lengths and rhythms in simple time. When your child has reached a suitable level of ability, our ensembles tutors will encourage them to audition for one of our intermediate ensembles.

## **Intermediate ensembles**

With the exception of our beginner ensembles, it is necessary to attend an informal audition with one of our ensemble tutors so that we can make sure that this is the most appropriate ensemble for you. For string players, the next step is usually Young Musicians Training Orchestra (YMTO), followed by Young Musicians Orchestra (YMO). For woodwind, brass and percussion players, there are more options as these instruments feature in both bands and orchestras.

We expect young musicians joining Young Musicians Training Orchestra (YMTO) and Sutton Youth Symphonic Band (SYSB) to be competent readers with a basic awareness of chromatic notes and different key signatures. They should have a good knowledge of note lengths and rhythms in simple time and compound time. As a guide, these ensembles are generally best suited to young musicians of around Grade 3-5 ability on their instrument. For Young Musicians Orchestra (YMO), they need to be strong readers and have a good understanding of playing in different key signatures and in a range of styles. They should have a strong knowledge of note lengths and rhythms in simple and compound time. As a guide, Young Musicians Orchestra (YMO) is generally best suited to young musicians of around Grade 4-6 ability on their instrument. When your child has reached a suitable level of ability, our ensembles tutors will encourage them to audition for one of our advanced ensembles.

## **Advanced ensembles**

Entry to our advanced ensembles is by audition and, as a guide, these ensembles are generally best suited to young musicians that have reached a Grade 6 ability or higher on their instrument. We expect young musicians joining our advanced level ensembles to be strong readers and they should be confident playing an independent part and in a range of styles.

# Frequently asked questions

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## **What if my child can't attend a rehearsal?**

Attendance at rehearsals is very important and we ask that you try to attend rehearsals whenever possible. To help us monitor attendance, it's important that all ensemble members sign in when they arrive at rehearsals. There's no need to sign out, unless you need to leave early. If an absence at rehearsals or concerts is unavoidable, please notify Khadija Dero, Ensembles Coordinator on 07857 987334 or [kdero@suttonmail.org](mailto:kdero@suttonmail.org)

## **Can I sit in on rehearsals?**

We don't allow parents to sit in on rehearsals, as with so many children and young people involved, it's just not practical. We do, however, provide a waiting area with refreshments facilities in the foyer area of the church.

## **What happens when there's a concert?**

All ensembles participate in concerts at the end of each term. These usually take place at St Andrew's Church, Cheam, but sometimes may also be at other local venues, such as Dorking Halls or Fairfield Halls. Occasionally, there will also be opportunities to perform at world-class venues such as London's Royal Albert Hall or the Royal Festival Hall. It's very important that your child is able to attend rehearsals on the day of the concert as well as the concert itself.

## **What should my son/daughter wear for concerts?**

For concerts, members of beginner or intermediate ensembles wear a black Sutton Music Service polo shirt, black trousers/skirt (no jeans please), black socks or tights and smart black shoes (no trainers please). Members of advanced level ensembles wear the same, but with black Sutton Music Service concert shirts instead of polo shirts. Polo shirts and concert shirts can be purchased at rehearsals in the weeks leading up to a concert – polo shirts cost £10.00 and concert shirts cost £15.00.

## **How can my son/daughter progress to a more advanced ensemble?**

With the exception of our beginner ensembles, it is necessary to attend an informal audition with one of our ensemble tutors so that we can make sure that this is the most appropriate ensemble for you – this usually happens at the end of each term. Ensemble tutors/conductors will usually recommend that your child auditions for a more advanced ensemble when they feel they have reached an appropriate level of ability, but speak to Khadija Dero, Ensembles Coordinator if you need advice on this.

## **How can I help?**

We often need help at concerts and events and we're very grateful for any help that parents/carers can offer. Sutton Youth Music Supporters' Association (SYMSA) is a registered charity that exists to support the work of Sutton Music Service. Please let us know if you would like to register your interest as a SYMSA volunteer.

# Keeping up to date

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Our newsletter, *Ensemble Express*, is the best way to find out all the key information about rehearsals and concerts – this is available at rehearsals or can be downloaded from our website, where you can also find all rehearsal and concert dates for the year. You can also follow us on social media for regular updates.

Visit our website – [www.suttonmusicsservice.org.uk](http://www.suttonmusicsservice.org.uk)

Follow us on Twitter – @Sutton\_Music

Like us on Facebook – @suttonmusicsservice

Follow us on Instagram – @sutton\_music

## Further opportunities

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### **Sutton Young Singers**

Sutton Young Singers is aimed at talented and enthusiastic young singers aged 8 to 13. Rehearsals take place on Thursday afternoons from 5-6pm at St Andrew's Church, Cheam. Please contact us to arrange a short, informal audition.

### **High Ashurst residential music weekend (Years 4-8)**

Each year in the spring term, we offer all ensemble members in Years 4-8 the opportunity to join us for an action-packed, three day camp at High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre on Box Hill near Dorking, in the heart of the Surrey countryside. The weekend provides excellent opportunities for music making, team building and making new friends. Under the direction of experienced Music Service staff, the children prepare a selection of pieces to perform to parents in a concert on the Sunday afternoon. There are also an array of indoor and outdoor activities available, including high ropes and challenge courses, a camp fire, football, craft and games. Not to be missed!

### **Annual summer tour (Year 9 and above)**

Our annual summer tour is a highlight of the year. Each summer, we organise a European concert tour and have previously toured Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy, Estonia, Netherlands, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. This year we are visiting Portugal for the first time, staying in Lisbon, and will perform four concerts as part of the Lisbon Music Fest.

### **Student Council**

Our Student Council is elected annually by members of our advanced ensembles and provides a valuable 'student voice' that influences the provision that we offer.