

## COURSE INFORMATION DOCUMENT, SUMMER 2021

### West Road Concert Hall, August 23-25/ August 26-28

For this course, in the light of concerns over Covid-safety, we have had to make many changes. We were determined to run a real-live course despite all the uncertainties of the coming months and we have tried, therefore, to put together a musical offering for as many children as possible, remaining as safe as we reasonably can, while maintaining the ethos and ambitions of Holiday Orchestra.

Our Course Director is Russell Keable and he has assembled a superb team of tutors to make this course unique and very special.

### Social Distancing.

The West Road Concert Hall and site belong to the University of Cambridge, so we are following their current rules for room occupancy. This means that far fewer children than normal can be accommodated. Therefore we have made the radical decision to run the course twice, thereby offering music to twice as many children, with two, three day courses. Regretfully there can be no final presentations (always very crowded) but this means that each course can run for three days at full steam.

The courses (Aug.23-25 and 26-28) will be identical in the mornings but will diverge in the afternoons with Lower Orchestra (Grade 4+) in the first course and Upper Orchestra (Grade 6+) in the second course. This is made clear on the booking form where you decide which course to book for.

### Streaming and Structure

We are also trying to minimise unnecessary mixing of children by dividing them into three streams (Red, Blue and Green). Each participant will belong to a stream and their mornings will consist of three sessions: a session with their orchestral instrument (similar to our usual Training, Intermediate and Upper Strings or Band, but with the boundaries adjusted if necessary to accommodate as many children as possible), a session with a choir (with the stream divided in two, roughly by age, for further safety) and also a session in one of five small-group activities which are described below.

Time	Red stream	Blue stream	Green stream
<b>0930-1015</b>	Training Strings or Training Band	Choir (two groups)	Small groups
<b>1015-1045</b>	BREAK		
<b>1045-1130</b>	Small groups	Intermediate Strings or Intermediate Band	Choir (two groups)
<b>1130-1200</b>	BREAK		
<b>1200-1245</b>	Choir (two groups)	Small groups	Upper Strings or Upper Band
<b>1245-1400</b>	ALL CHILDREN TO LEAVE THE BUILDING		
<b>1400-1545</b> including a short break	Lower Orchestra, Grade 4+ (Monday to Wednesday) Upper Orchestra, Grade 6+ (Thursday to Saturday)		

We are sorry not to be able to offer a stream for children who play non-orchestral instruments, such as piano, guitar or recorders, or who have not yet reached Red Stream level (Grade 1) but such children may apply to join a suitable choir and small-group activity and will be put on a waiting list while we see how much room we have.

Of course there are in any case number limits for all the sessions in this course, determined by room-occupancy rules. If you don't mind which course you join (Monday-Wednesday or Thursday-Saturday) you can indicate on the booking form that you are happy for us to distribute numbers to the best effect.

#### Small-Group Activities.

These are groups of around 10 children each, and should stay the same throughout the three days. We have:

Gamelan

Jazz

Folk with Ukuleles

African Rhythm and Melody Workshop

A Very Short Guide to Practical Theory

We really hope that within the restrictions and uncertainties of this year we shall see the spirit of Holiday Orchestra inspiring children to make music together and heal some of the pain of the last 18 months.

#### Booking and Communication

Bookings should be made using our online form, which is located at

[https://holidayorchestra.co.uk/wordpress\\_f/online-booking-for-summer-2021](https://holidayorchestra.co.uk/wordpress_f/online-booking-for-summer-2021). The form is laid out in a different way from our previous courses; we ask you to give details of your child's instrument and standard and we will allocate them to a stream. We are also asking for first and second choices for the small group session. You will receive an automated email when you submit your form, listing the information you have submitted and telling you how to pay.

At the end of July, or earlier if the course is fully booked, we will assign children to their streams and to their small group activities. Therefore in the first few days of August you will receive a semi-automated email confirming the sessions for which your child has been registered and listing their timetable.

#### Parent Helpers

If you are able to spare some time during the course, parent helpers would be very much welcomed. Please email our parent helper co-ordinator Gina Holland on [gina@biff.org.uk](mailto:gina@biff.org.uk) detailing when you are available.

If you have any questions, please email our Bookings Secretary Fiona Rutter ([info@holidayorchestra.co.uk](mailto:info@holidayorchestra.co.uk)) or telephone our Chairman Lydia Hill (01353 740021). Thank you.

Happy music-making from all of us.