

## COURSE INFORMATION DOCUMENT, CHRISTMAS 2021: West Road Concert Hall, December 27-30

We are returning to our pre-Covid format of a single course lasting four days, with various activities in the mornings and a full orchestra in the afternoons. However, in view of the continued prevalence of Covid-19 we shall, for the time being, have to follow the various risk-mitigations we put in place in the summer. Therefore the children will again be organised in streams - 'red', 'blue', and 'green' - based largely on their expertise on their orchestral instrument. We will allocate children to streams once most bookings have been made, in order to give children the best possible experience.

The three sessions each morning will comprise Band/Strings (orchestral instruments), choice of Choir or Percussion workshop, and choice of Small Group. There are five Small Groups to choose from: Jazz, Folk, Gamelan, Ukuleles and African Rhythm. We try to give everyone their first choice but limits on the number of people allowed in each room are very tight.

Time	Red stream	Blue stream	Green stream
0930-1020	Strings or Band	Choir or Percussion workshop	Small groups
1020-1050	BREAK		
1050-1140	Small groups	Strings or Band	Choir or Percussion workshop
1140-1210	BREAK		
1210-1300	Choir or Percussion workshop	Small groups	Strings or Band
1300-1345	ALL CHILDREN TO LEAVE THE BUILDING		
1345-1600 including a short break	Orchestra, Grade 5+ strings, Grade 6+ woodwind / brass / percussion		

While we anticipate that the majority of children will follow this streamed timetable, there are a couple of possible exceptions. Children who do not play an orchestral instrument to Grade 1 standard, or who play a non-orchestral instrument such as the piano are invited to book for a Small Group and Choir/Percussion workshop and we will do our best to accommodate them for the remaining time wherever we have space. Or if your child plays two instruments (or would like to play their instrument at both their 'correct' level and an easier one) then they may be able to attend more than one strings / band session as these take place in large well-ventilated rooms so there is less pressure on numbers. If either of these applies to you, please give details in the "anything else" box on the last page of the booking form and we will let you know what we can do.

Children at Grade 6 (band) or Grade 5 (strings) who do not wish to stay for the whole day are welcome to book for the afternoon Orchestra alone. This is excellent value at two hours (plus a break) for four days. It could also be combined with booking for the Green (upper) stream strings or band at no extra cost, perhaps on a different instrument. The Orchestra will be conducted by Russell Keable, so we guarantee a thrilling four days.

We still feel that the crowding involved in Presentations is altogether too likely to spread viruses of whatever kind, so regrettably the morning sessions will not be able to present their work this time. However, parents and carers will be invited to attend the last session of the orchestra for what we hope will be an exciting intro to 2022.

Bookings should be made using our online form, which is located at [https://holidayorchestra.co.uk/wordpress f/online-booking-for-christmas-2021](https://holidayorchestra.co.uk/wordpress/f/online-booking-for-christmas-2021). The form is laid out in a

different way from our pre-Covid 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. The fees are as follows:

One child: £77

Two children from the same family: £145

Three children from the same family: £202

Each additional child from the same family: £57

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

In order to reduce numbers within the building, parents and carers should not come in with their children. If anyone does need to stay with their child we would be very grateful if they would sign up to be a parent helper – a simple but essential job for Holiday Orchestra. You are of course welcome as a parent helper in any event; we can ensure that you are not in a group with your child if you would like an hour or two away from your family by that point of the holidays! 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.