

London Sinfonietta Academy 2020: Information pack

Aims of the course

The London Sinfonietta Academy is an unparalleled opportunity for emerging players to train with the world's leading contemporary music ensemble.

The Academy comprises an intensive three day course of rehearsals and training culminating in a public performance. The course provides experience and training in performing as part of a contemporary music ensemble, with coaching from the London Sinfonietta Principal Players.

Who the course is for

The London Sinfonietta Academy is aimed at young musicians who are committed to long-term instrumental career development and who are interested in the specialism of performing contemporary classical music.

We do not have any minimum requirements for instrumental standard, but expect that candidates will have a firm commitment to the performance of contemporary music in addition to being excellent instrumentalists. Please ensure that your commitment is demonstrated through your personal statement.

We are aiming to create an ensemble of similar scale and orchestration to the London Sinfonietta itself. We are therefore looking for musicians playing the following instruments:

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, (Saxophone – see note below)
Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn
Piano
Harp
Percussion

Please note that as repertoire is not fully confirmed the involvement of certain instruments may vary. It is likely that we will confirm the place of one player per instrument and a first reserve after the auditions have taken place in February/March 2020. We may then have extra opportunities once the repertoire and course content have been confirmed by April 2020.

The inclusion of saxophone in the 2020 course is unconfirmed. We request that saxophone candidates register their interest by email with Christine Andrews (christine.andrews@londonsinfonietta.org.uk), but **do not** fill in the application form. Students will be contacted when the course repertoire has been decided.

How the initiative will work

Applications

Applications will be open from September 2019. Candidates must submit an application form and a reference from a teacher or instrumental tutor. Applicants are also asked to complete an equal opportunities monitoring form. These can be downloaded here: www.londonsinfonietta.org.uk/academy

Auditions

Instrumental candidates will be selected for an audition, where they will meet with some of the London Sinfonietta principal players and be asked to perform a prepared orchestral excerpt, a solo work of their choice from the 20th or 21st centuries and undertake sight-reading.

We plan to hold auditions in London and Manchester.

We will endeavour to invite all candidates to their preferred audition location of London or Manchester. Candidates will be expected to finance their own journey to the audition they are invited to attend.

Course

The intensive course will run between Saturday 4 July and Wednesday 8 July in central London.

There will be 2 – 3 sessions each day of the course, including student ensemble rehearsals, sectionals, side-by-side (with London Sinfonietta players) rehearsals and chamber music sessions.

Participants are required to attend all sessions of the course, unless agreed in advance with the London Sinfonietta.

Culmination performance

The course will culminate with a public performance by participants at the Purcell Room, Southbank Centre in London. This will take place on the evening of Wednesday 8 July.

This performance will be part of the London Sinfonietta's main season programme. The concert will be promoted on the London Sinfonietta website, and information about tickets is online now.

Evaluation

Participants will be required to provide feedback on their experience of the London Sinfonietta Academy following the course. This will most likely take the form of an electronic form.

Selected participants may also be asked to contribute to a blog about their experience of the course, participate in social media or be interviewed for in-depth feedback.

Photographs and/or videos may be taken during the course and concert for promotional purposes.

Further opportunities

As part of the London Sinfonietta's commitment to provide experience and training to young musicians, we also look to offer opportunities to Academy alumni after the course, whenever possible.

This year, we have the opportunity to invite Academy students to perform side by side with the London Sinfonietta at one of our concerts on Saturday 25 April. This will include a rehearsal date before the day. The day is not a set part of the Academy course commitment but we welcome all those who are accepted onto the course to participate in this opportunity.

Commitment to the initiative

All applicants admitted to the initiative will be expected to:

- **be available for an audition in February/March 2020**
- **be available for all of the course from Saturday 4 July – Wednesday 8 July 2020**
- be able to dedicate time to rehearse material in advance of the course
- be prepared for all elements of the London Sinfonietta Academy to be fully documented and to allow these materials to be used for evaluation, educational and promotional purposes
- be prepared to take part in the evaluation of their experience of the London Sinfonietta Academy

Eligibility criteria

Recruitment to the London Sinfonietta Academy is by an audition process.

Applicants should be aged 18–26 years on Friday 3 July 2020.

Candidates should be of British nationality, in full time study in the UK, or have been resident in the UK for at least 3 years.

Application Procedure

Please download (from the London Sinfonietta website) and complete the London Sinfonietta Academy application form.

This will require:

- contact details
- written responses to demonstrate your musical achievements
- a personal statement, summarising your aspirations to be a part of the initiative
- a reference from a teacher, mentor or colleague in your discipline
- confirmation of availability to take part in the initiative
- equal opportunities monitoring form

Timetable

The closing date for applications is Friday 10 January 2020.

Please submit all applications to academy@londonsinfonietta.org.uk

or by post to: London Sinfonietta (Academy), Kings Place, 90 York Way, London, N1 9AG

If you have any questions or enquiries about this initiative please contact:
academy@londonsinfonietta.org.uk or 020 7239 9340