

Information for new members

Welcome to the SOLENT CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Here are some guidelines on what is expected of a member of SCO.

- There is no audition, but we suggest a minimum standard of Grade 5. Prospective members undertake a trial period of playing with the orchestra during which due allowance is made for rusty players getting up to speed, after which an invitation to join permanently is dependent on discussions between section leaders, conductor and orchestra leader.
- **REHEARSALS** - These take place on Thursday evenings in Bramshaw Village Hall from 7.45 – 10 pm., during term time. The Thursday rehearsal immediately prior to a concert usually takes place in the concert venue.
Regular attendance is required, but if absence is unavoidable you should inform the secretary (Caroline Biggin), the conductor (Simon Wilkins), and your section leader, as well as the register secretary (Kaylee Gault) as soon as possible. Please ensure you have the necessary contact details.
Please arrive (with your instrument, music, stand, pencil etc.) in time to set up, warm up, and be ready to start promptly at 7.45.
- **CONCERTS** - The orchestra gives three to four concerts a year in various venues around the local area, performing a wide variety of music and styles, ranging from film / stage music and light classics to full Symphonies and Concertos. Usually one concert each year is devoted to “lighter” music.
- **REPERTOIRE** - The concert repertoire is chosen by a Music Selection Committee, but any member may suggest a piece by writing it in the suggestions book (available at rehearsals). All suggestions are considered by the committee. Some may be deemed unsuitable for the orchestra due to lack of availability, required instrumentation, difficulty, cost etc., and this feedback is entered into the book and available in the minutes of that committee, which are posted on the website. The majority of pieces selected are based on players’ suggestions.
- **MUSIC** – At the start of each new term the music* required for the next concert will be handed to you in a (coloured) plastic envelope by the librarian. Each piece will be numbered with your own personal number, and it is your responsibility to look after it and bring it to every rehearsal. After the concert, the envelope (with all the music – please check) should be handed back in, and the next set of music given to you.
* Sometimes you may be required to download some of the music from IMSLP. Information on this will be found on the web site under “music to download”
- **WEBSITE** – The website contains information about the Orchestra’s history, previous and future concerts, photo gallery, committee members etc., and should be consulted regularly. In particular a rehearsal schedule is posted giving details of the music to be rehearsed each week (N.B. It is advisable to bring all your music with you, as the schedule may change), and before each concert a Concert Schedule is posted giving details of venue, start times of rehearsal and concert, and dress code. Please ask a member of the committee to give you the password.
- **SUBSCRIPTIONS** – A subscription is due at the start of each term. New members are given their first term free, after which their membership of SCO may be reviewed. The current rate is £40 per term. Should this prove difficult, you can talk to the Treasurer (Howard Moore) who will be happy to discuss any individual case.