

LPO Overture Days are designed to offer a fun orchestral experience for young musicians aged 11-14, at grade 4+ level on their instrument. We prioritise places for young musicians who may be eligible to apply for our [LPO Junior Artists](#) programme in the future.

LPO Junior Artists

LPO Junior Artists aims to support young musicians from backgrounds currently under-represented in professional UK orchestras through a year-long programme of activity, including 1-1 mentor sessions with LPO players, performance opportunities, workshops and insights into the music industry. The programme is offered to 8 young musicians each year, and participation is free. Applicants are invited to self-identify how they meet the eligibility requirements when they apply for the scheme.

Under-representation

Applicants need to be from a background that is **currently under-represented in professional UK orchestras** either due to cultural, financial or practical barriers, or existing unconscious or conscious bias within the sector. We are not presenting a fixed set of criteria, and instead ask applicants to self-identify whether they are eligible. Eligible criteria may include, but are not limited to, **under-represented racial, ethnic or socio-economic backgrounds**, and may also include **gender, disability and special educational needs**.

Please note that ethnicity refers to one's cultural background and is distinct from nationality – applying based on a non-British nationality alone would probably not fulfil the criteria of the scheme. A minority ethnic background within the UK may also not necessarily equate to under-representation within professional UK orchestras e.g. musicians from certain East or South East Asian backgrounds are well represented within the sector.

Please note, LPO Junior Artists is not a bursary scheme. A low-income background may overlap with under-represented socio-economic backgrounds but applying on this basis alone may not fulfil a definition of under-representation.

Playing standard

Applicants need to play an **orchestral** instrument at **Grade 8 standard or above** (it is not necessary to have taken a certified exam). This is a broad guideline and, essentially, we are looking for young people whose playing standard, considered in relation to their age, indicates that they may have the potential to consider studying music beyond school and ultimately entering the profession. We also recommend that to get the most out of the programme, applicants should have experience of playing in orchestras or ensembles and be particularly interested in developing their skills in this area. Please note that for this programme the piano is not included as an orchestral instrument.

Age range and commitment

Applicants should be aged between **15 and 18** at the start of the programme. Junior Artists is a commitment that spans across the academic year, so those taking exams or who take part in other substantial extra-curricular activities should bear in mind their overall schedule when considering an application. Activities are scheduled during school holidays and weekends. In addition, there will be occasional evenings as Junior Artists are invited to several LPO concerts across a season. Activities take place in the London Waterloo area, near the Royal Festival Hall.

All applications are considered on a case-by-case basis and we encourage you to get in touch with us directly with any questions about your eligibility and suitability for the scheme:

juniorartists@lpo.org.uk.