

LPO Junior Artists: Overture – Priority Places

LPO Overture Days are designed to offer a fun orchestral experience for young musicians **aged 11-14**, at **Grade 4+ level** on their instrument. Everybody is welcome to apply, but we prioritise places for young musicians from **backgrounds currently under-represented in professional UK orchestras**, who may be eligible to apply for our [LPO Junior Artists](#) programme **in the future**.

What is the LPO Junior Artists programme?

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.

Who can apply for the LPO Junior Artists programme?

Applicants for the LPO Junior Artists scheme 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 and age range

Applicants for the LPO Junior Artists programme 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. Applicants should be aged between **15 and 18** at the start of the programme.

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.