

Beginners' Information Sheet

Introduction

Many members of YLSS are adult beginners who have started from scratch. We are keen to encourage others to get started and hope that once you have started learning you will soon feel confident enough to join us. We have based the information in this sheet on our own experience and hope it will help those who are not quite sure how to get started. If you have any information to contribute which you think might help other late starters please let us know. The figures given are as at the Autumn term 2011.

Acquiring an instrument

At the risk of stating the obvious, if you want to learn to play a musical instrument you need to have one to play at your lessons and to practise on. This involves a financial commitment and you may be hesitant about getting involved in expense until you know whether you are actually going to enjoy it and want to continue. You may be lucky enough to find someone who is willing to lend you an instrument but if you do not you could consider renting. Alternatively, you may decide to go straight ahead and buy.

Renting/Buying

Many music shops offer an instrument rental service. You might wish to try one of the shops in our area whose details we have given below.

Banks Music

18 Lendal
York
Yorkshire
YO1 8AU
<http://www.musicroom.com/york>

Beverley Music Centre

14 Norwood
Beverley
East Yorkshire
HU17 9EZ
<http://www.beverleymusiccentre.co.uk>

John Scheerer & Sons Ltd

88/90 Merrion Centre
Leeds
LS2 8NG
<http://scheerers.com>

In October 2011, you would have to pay around £18 for rental for three months for a violin; £35 for a viola; £85 for a cello and £125 for a double bass. If you then decide that you want to buy you will usually be able to buy the instrument you have been renting in

which case the price will be from around £100 for a violin; £190 for a viola; £540 for a cello and £810 for a double bass. There is a scheme for assistance with buying an instrument run by the Arts Council which you might like to investigate. The information can be found at

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/takeitaway/>

If you do not know very much about what to expect from an instrument and have no one who can guide you it is probably best to avoid buying an expensive instrument or getting one from eBay.

Finding a teacher

You will find it difficult to progress if you do not have a teacher. Most members of the orchestra have lessons either on a regular or intermittent basis. It is important that you and your teacher are able to relate to one another. Most teachers will offer a trial lesson (for which you will usually pay at the same rate as an ordinary lesson). This gives you both the opportunity to see if you feel you can work together. Do not be afraid to decide that a particular teacher is not for you. There will almost certainly be someone out there who suits you. At the end of this information sheet, there is a list of teachers who have given us their details.

Cost

The Musicians' Union sets a recommended hourly rate annually, usually in about September. The current rate is £29.50. You should expect to pay at least that and probably more for an experienced teacher. You will find that there are teachers who charge more and that people are willing to pay that to be taught by them. If finances are an issue you may be able to find a student teacher who will usually charge less. You should also be ready to discuss with your teacher how frequently you want to have a lesson, whether weekly, fortnightly or less often and how long you want the lessons to last. Some people find when they first start that they cannot concentrate for more than half an hour at a time. You may then increase the time to 45 minutes or an hour as you get more experienced.

Conclusion

We are keen to encourage other late starters like ourselves. We welcome anyone who feels ready to come along and take part in the orchestra. You will probably feel comfortable joining us once you have had some lessons and begun to feel more familiar with the instrument. We can provide simplified parts and our aim is to make those joining us feel welcome so that they can enjoy the experience of playing in an orchestra.

Stringed instrument teachers

A list of stringed instrument teachers in the Yorkshire area, and the details they have given us about themselves, is given below.

Violin/viola

Heather Cordwell BA (Hons), Leeds College of Music, PGCE with Specialist Instrumental

Teaching, Royal Northern College of Music

Violin (all standards), beginner viola, music theory

Can travel to people's houses for tuition for a small charge.

mobile: 07814488859

email: heathercordwell@hotmail.com

Wendy Dyson GRSM (hons) ARCM(perf)

30 years experience of teaching violin. Adult beginners and re-starters are particularly welcome.

mobile: 07821 087086

email: wendyadyson@btinternet.com

Milka Kalinowska

Violin teacher

mobile: 07774508469

email: milka2@wp.pl

Ken Mitchell BA, MA, GRNCM, ARNCM

Violin and viola

Tel. 0113 2585199

29 Outwood Lane, Horsforth Leeds

Margaret Moseley, GRNCM

Violin and viola

8 Brooklands

East Keswick

Leeds LS17 9DD

Tel. 01937 572487

email: margaretmoseley@aol.com

Amy Preece BMus(Hons), LRSM (Violin Performance)

Teacher of violin, piano, recorder, music theory and beginner cello (up to grade 5)

45 Greenside Estate

Mirfield

West Yorkshire

WF14 0BA

Tel. 01924 520781

email: info@amy-preece.co.uk www.amy-preece.co.uk

Cordelia Prescott, BA Hons (music) (Bristol University)
Teacher of viola, violin, piano and theory to both adults and children.
Freelance viola player.
The Coach House, Oats Royd, Luddenden, HX2 6RF (in the Calder Valley).
Tel. 01422 886410 or 07966 451534.
email: ariana@tameonline.net

Clare Richards
Teacher of violin, viola, piano and theory
43 Grangefield Ave., Burley-in-Wharfedale
LS29 7HA
Tel. 01943 862748
email: claresviolintuition@btinternet.com

Eileen Spencer BA, ARCM
Teacher of violin and viola
Opera North player
Tel. 0113 2774717

Andrew Watkinson
Teacher of Violin/Viola. Regular or irregular lessons available to suit.
Living in Fulford York. Collection/drop at York station if required.
Tel. 0771 8552140

Cello

George Kennaway
Highly experienced teacher, particularly with adult pupils of all standards.
Sub-principal cellist in the Orchestra of Opera North 1979-2008.
Visiting Research Fellow, Leeds and Huddersfield universities.
Tel. 07952 597420
email: gwkennaway@gmail.com

Roger Ladds
Cello teacher
Formerly co-principal cellist with the City of Birmingham Symphony
Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Symphony Orchestra
Tel. 07745564551
email: Roger466@btinternet.com

Paul Moxon ARCM, GRSM (Leeds area and surrounding districts)
Peripatetic and private cello teacher of children and adults
Tel. 01977 796014.
mob: 07984 864 004
email: paul.moxon2@tiscali.co.uk

Catherine Strachan BMus (RSAMD), M.A.(Baroque performance, Uni. of York)
Experienced cello and double bass teacher, happy to work with students of all ages and

levels including adult beginners. Based in York.
Freelance cellist
Tel. 07929 254986
email: catherinestrachan@gmail.com

Elizabeth Walker M.A. (York area)
Cello teacher of children and adults at all levels
Tel. 07745 529 150
email: lillybet8@hotmail.com

Double Bass

Jennifer Nicks, freelance Bassist
Double bass and cello to all levels
Home visits
based in Huddersfield
Tel. 07966146884
email: jennoire@yahoo.co.uk

Website of instrumental teachers:

<http://www.musicteachers.co.uk/browse/ls/leeds/teachers/>

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