

INFORMATION
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ORA SINGERS
Young Composers



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMPOSERS

Introduction



UK Music's ***Securing our Talent Pipeline*** report of 2018 showed that **50%** of students at **independent schools** received sustained music tuition, while the figure for **state schools** was only **15%**. The report also showed an alarming **drop** in students taking GCSE Music, despite overall GCSE entries increasing the same year. The number of schools offering Music A Level also declined by **15%** over the same period.

ORA SINGERS Young Composers

ORA Singers Young Composers was set up to **tackle** the decline in music provision in the state sector, welcoming those from **all areas of the UK**, with a particular focus on those from **disadvantaged backgrounds**.

The Young Composers Programme does this by providing **first-class training** in composition **free of charge**. Students are enrolled onto one of two strands: The flagship **Young Composers scheme**, and the **Apprentice scheme**.



Young Composers

10 Young Composers
100 Hours of Mentoring
10 Brand New Pieces

The Young Composers course is offered to **10 applicants** who show a **real interest in composition** and who show **true potential** as young composers. **Special consideration** is made towards those who **haven't** received forms of private music tuition. The course offers **10 hours of first-class one-to-one mentoring with industry-leading composers, free of charge**. These Mentors **develop their skills** in composition, target **areas of need** or interest, and help them write a **brand new piece** for ORA Singers.

Mentoring → **Workshop** → **Showcase**

Half-way through the scheme, Young Composers are invited to a **Workshop**, where they take part in a seminar on composition and have their sketches and ideas sung by **ORA Singers**, who offer **feedback** and **advice** along with a **guest composer**. The Workshop offers an invaluable chance for them to hear their **ideas worked on by professional singers**, helping them **hone the skills** needed to write for a capella voices.

The programme ends with a **Showcase Concert**, where **ORA Singers perform** each Young Composer's new piece to a live and online audience, and a panel of **industry experts**. Each Young Composer receives a video recording of their piece to **kick-start their portfolio**, along with detailed feedback from the panel. The Showcase Concert acts as a **platform** for the Young Composers to have their works performed by an award-winning ensemble, **exposing their talents to the industry and the public**.



Apprentices

40 Apprentices

4 Workshops

40 New Pieces

APPRENTICE HUB

Write a repeatable 4-bar Texture which uses the same chord, chord progression or no pitches at all. Words can be used but the focus here is on the texture/timbre of what you write, not the harmony or text.

#2

Precise (♩ = c. 78)



ation worksheet, writing each
via Sibelius)

MORE VIDEOS

The Young Composers Programme also offers **free compositional tutoring** for **40 Apprentices**. Split into two groups, the Apprentices are enrolled onto their own series of **in-depth, online Workshops**, focusing on key areas in composition, including **history, harmony, texture, techniques, and more.**

Workshops

Exercises

Final Piece

After each Workshop, Apprentices are given tasks to complete which **exercise the skills** introduced in each session, and receive **detailed feedback** and **guidance** from the Apprentice Leader. At the end of the scheme, Apprentices write a **short new piece showcasing the skills** learned throughout the course.

The Apprentice programme is designed to provide a **comprehensive overview** of the elements surrounding choral composition, whilst also supplying **specialist compositional knowledge** to **fast-track** their abilities as composers. Apprentices are also given opportunities to **meet with industry professionals and Music College students**, giving them a **unique insight** into composition in higher education and at a professional level.

Rory Wainwright Johnston
Apprentice Leader and Composer

Mentors are **industry-leading composers** who have each been commissioned by ORA Singers in the past. Mentors are **hand-picked** by ORA, and are assigned to each Young Composer at the start of the scheme. Young Composers receive their training through scheduled **one-to-one lessons** and regular email communication.

Mentors

Previous Mentors



Janet Wheeler



Ken Burton



Kim Porter



Richard Allain



Harry Escott



Oliver Tarney



Thomas Hewitt-Jones



Owain Park

Alumni

A large number of Young Composers and Apprentices have gone on to study Composition or Musicology at **top UK Universities** and **Conservatoires**, with many highlighting their experience in the scheme as **pivotal** in their higher education applications.

Some Young Composers have even been approached by **international music festivals** to write **new commissions**, as a result of their participation in the scheme.



“ Nothing else I've done this year -including school! -has taught me, inspired me and moulded me as much as this scheme. Thank you so much to everyone at ORA, it's been incredible.”

- Emily Pedersen (2019 Young Composer)

“ I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made this experience possible! It is something I will never forget and have learnt a lot from.”

- Hannah Doyle (2021 Young Composer)

“ The workshops and exercises were perfect! They helped me explore and experiment with different techniques I would have never thought of before.”

- 2021 Apprentice

“ It was beautiful to hear all the compositions sung by ORA Singers. For me, it was amazing to hear the notes I composed on Sibelius being sung by real, professional singers.”

- Sequoia Ralph (2021 Young Composer)

Statistics

Total number of students enrolled

93

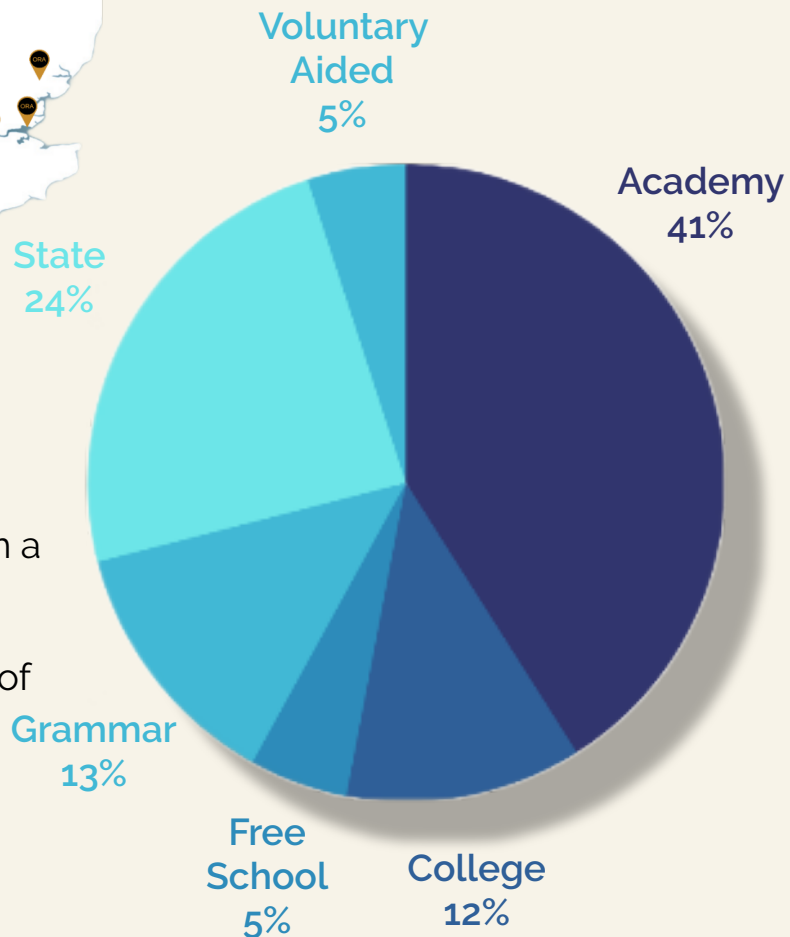
Reach

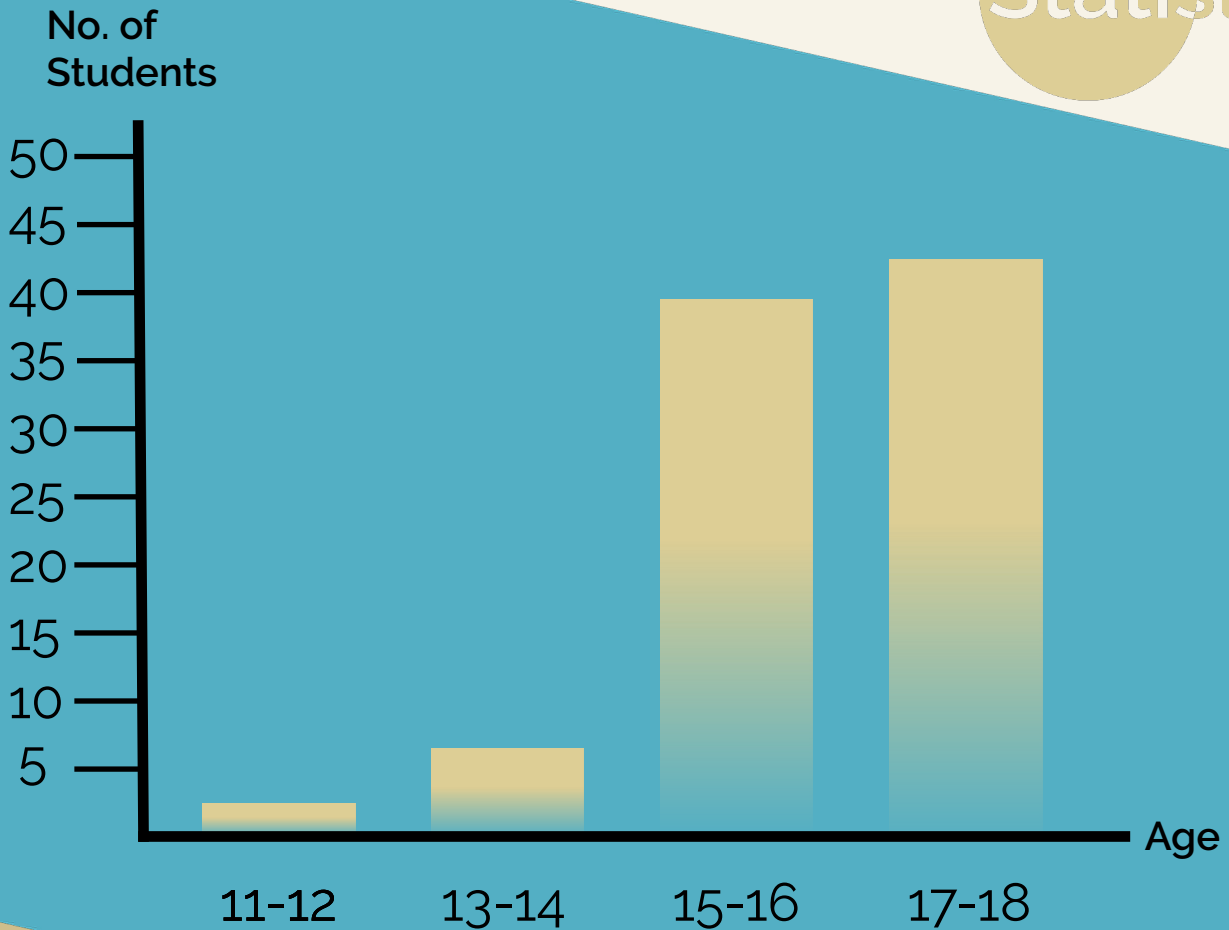
The Young Composers scheme has reached students from nearly every corner across the UK. In 2022, we partnered with the **University of Leeds** for the Showcase Concert to celebrate the programme's **growing reach** across the country.



School Types

The scheme has welcomed students from a **wide range** of non fee-paying schools, including **state, grammar, free school, college, voluntary aided**, with a majority of students in education at **academies**.

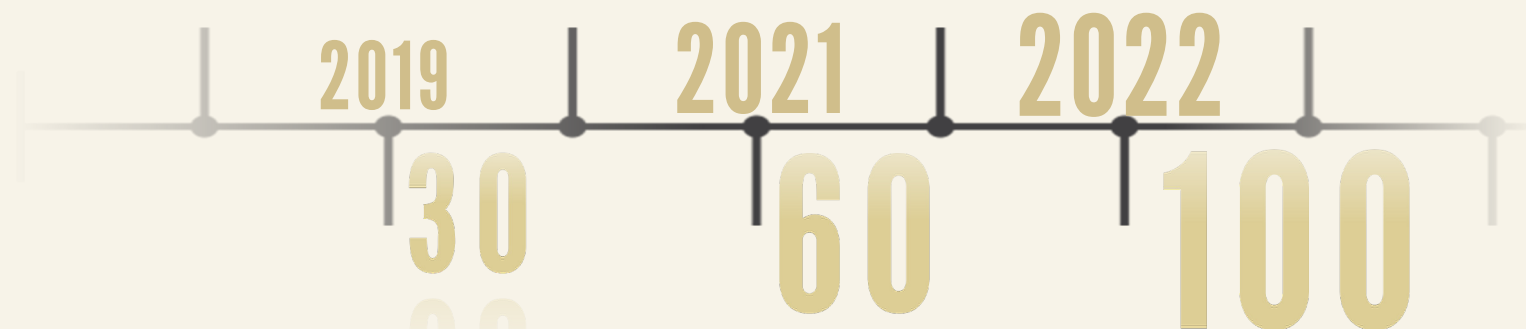




Age groups

The Young Composers programme welcomes anyone studying at secondary level, and has seen a large number of students enrolled during their **GCSEs** or **A Level** studies. The scheme has provided a unique **foundation** for those applying to **Universities** or **Conservatoires**, and has solidified many student's ambitions to pursue a career in music. The scheme has even convinced some to swap their University course to Composition or Musicology.

Number of Applicants



We've seen a sharp **increase** in the number of applications each year, showing a **huge growth of interest** from pupils and schools across the country.

History

2019

The scheme was first introduced in **2019**. Originally named the Composer Competition, the scheme welcomed **10 students** from **state-funded schools** who each received 10 hours of **one-to-one tutoring** with a mentor. **Industry-leading composers** were selected to be Mentors for the scheme, who trained each student and helped them write a brand new piece for ORA Singers, which was performed at the Final Concert.

2021

The 2021 season introduced the **Apprentice scheme**, with **20** additional students enrolled onto a series of **free, in-depth, online masterclasses** in composition. Led by composer **Rory Johnston**, each Workshop focused on a new area of composition, e.g. history, techniques, harmony, texture. Apprentices were set tasks which **exercised the skills introduced** in each session. 10 Finalists received the flagship package of one-to-one mentoring introduced in 2019.

2022

2022 was the **biggest** run of the programme since its inception in 2019. Interest in the scheme had grown exponentially, with **over 100 applications** submitted from students all across the UK. The 2022 programme **doubled** the capacity of the **Apprentice scheme** to welcome **40** students onto its online workshop series, and 10 more students received one-to-one tutoring with ORA-commissioned Mentors. ORA Singers partnered up with **The University of Leeds**, who held the Final Concert in their Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall.

Partners

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