

hcoweb.co.uk

Thank you for your enquiry regarding joining the Orchestra. We are always delighted to welcome new members and hope you will come and try us out.

Here is some key information which we hope will be useful.

- **Rehearsals** - all rehearsals are held at [North Street Hall](#) (opposite Iceland), North Street, Hornchurch, RM111QX on most Wednesdays during school term time, 7.30-9.30pm. There is plenty of parking adjacent to the hall in Westland Avenue – we ask that you park on the hall side of the road as occasionally residents have problems with double parking. There is a bus stop just opposite with good connections into Hornchurch and Romford and further afield. A rehearsal schedule is normally issued at the start of every term. It can be found at: <https://www.hcoweb.co.uk/members-diary>.
- **Concerts** – the winter and summer concert generally take place at the [Frances Bardsley Academy](#), Brentwood Road, Romford, RM1 2RR. The afternoon rehearsal usually starts at 2pm and the concert starts at 7.30pm, unless otherwise advised. Concert dress is black for ladies and DJ for gents. The spring concert usually happens at the [New Windmill Hall](#), St Mary's Lane, Upminster, RM14 2QH with the afternoon rehearsal usually starting at 12midday and the concert at 3 pm.
- **Social Media** - In addition to our [Orchestra Page](#), we have a [Members Only Group](#). You just need to ask to join, Havering Concert Orchestra Members. This is a place to make comments, get current information etc. You might also like to follow us on [Instagram](#).
- **A few polite requests!** Some of this may seem really obvious if you play regularly in orchestras, but we think it worth restating:
 - Attendance at rehearsals: we live in the real world and realise that not everyone can be present every week (or on time!). If you cannot attend for any reason, please ensure that your absence is not going to cause problems due to you having any music (and possibly leaving insufficient parts for the rest of the section).
 - Please bring a music stand and a pencil to rehearsal . Many people like to bring a stand light for the concert also as the light is often not the best. We do have a small supply of acoustic screens which are strategically placed during concerts.
 - Please ensure that all music is left with the orchestra after the performance. It can be a nightmare for our librarian to chase up missing parts and costly for the orchestra!
 - If you cannot play in a concert for some reason, please advise the leader of the orchestra or your Section Leader.
- **Playing in concerts:** whilst often happy to attend the occasional rehearsal, not every player wants to participate in the concert. Whilst we readily accept this, could you please make your intention known at the start of the term so that we can plan accordingly.
- **Concert publicity:** please help 'do your bit ' to publicise concerts by taking away flyers and displaying them, as well as selling as many tickets as possible to your

family and friends!

- **Subscription Donations:** the first term is free for new joiners. Thereafter recommended donations are shown on our [website](#), or speak to Colin Foan, Treasurer.
- **Programme planning:** this takes place around February for the following concert season and, unusually for most orchestras, the meeting is open to everyone (details advised nearer the time).

Hope to see you soon.

CONTACTS:

Graeme Wright (Chairman): HaveringConcertOrchestra@gmail.com Cathy Rogers (Secretary): HaveringConcertOrchestra@gmail.com Colin Foan (Treasurer): hcotreasurer@hotmail.co.uk
Lawrence Tatnall (Conductor)