

National Youth Jazz Summer School Audition Application Form 2007



In response to an initiative and funding by Youth Music, Jazz Services is delighted to launch its pilot National Youth Jazz Summer School in 2007. This week-long summer school, which will be held at Leeds College of Music from 29th July to 5th August 2007, intends to draw together a pool of 30 gifted and talented instrumentalists, singers, composers and arrangers, between the ages of 14 and 18, in collaboration with 10 internationally known jazz musicians, who are also experienced jazz educators. The focus of the summer school will be on developing the improvisatory and interactive skills within the context of small group playing, while offering a high level of performance experience and professional guidance.

Applicants will be selected for the National Youth Jazz Summer School by audition during the period 31st March - 21st April 2007. These regional auditions will be held at the following locations between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm each day. Auditions are open to young people between the ages of 14 and 18 who are living in England.

Venue	Date
Leicester Arts Centre	Saturday 31st March, 2007
Birmingham Conservatoire	Sunday 1st April, 2007
Leeds Music College	Tuesday 3rd April, 2007
Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester	Wednesday 4th April, 2007
Kendal Brewery Arts Centre	Thursday 5th April, 2007
The Sage, Gateshead	Friday 6th April, 2007
Keay Theatre, St. Austell	Tuesday 10th April, 2007
Exeter Further Education College	Wednesday 11th April, 2007
Centre for Performing Arts, Bristol	Thursday 12th April, 2007
Royal Academy of Music, London	Friday 13th April 2007
Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon	Saturday 14th April, 2007
Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge	Saturday 21st April, 2007

1. APPLICATION FORMS & FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional Application Forms and further information are available to download from the Jazz Services website on www.jazzservices.org.uk or by contacting the National Youth Jazz Summer School Administrator on summerschool@jazzservices.org.uk or at Jazz Services Ltd, 132 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SW.

2. REFERENCE AND SIGNATORIES

All applicants will be asked to provide 3 supporting signatories as well as their own signature (*see section G Signatures and referee on page 7*) and a reference of no more than 100 words supporting their application. Jazz Services recommend that the reference be written by one of the signatories in Section G.

3. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

All Application Forms to be returned to the National Youth Jazz Summer School Administrator, Jazz Services Ltd, 132 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SW by 23rd February 2007 (Applicants should submit an application as soon as possible. All applicants are requested to adhere to the closing date).

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4. AUDITION PROCESS:

A) Instrumentalists and singers.

Three people will be with you during your audition: Two adjudicators and a jazz pianist who will be accompanying you as well as running some of the practical aural tests. All three are keen to make your time as comfortable and creative as possible, so please do tell us what we can do to help.

Candidates will be asked to perform:

a) A head and three improvised choruses of a mid tempo blues in F (without lead sheet), which will be accompanied by the jazz pianist.

b) TWO contrasting pieces lasting no more than a total of 8 minutes (You can find a list of example pieces on the Jazz Services website, if you need some guidance selecting two appropriate pieces. Candidates are also invited to perform an original, as one of their two selected pieces). Both pieces should begin with an opening “head arrangement” (i.e. a melody, accompanied by a chord progression). This should then be followed by an improvised solo section, which is based on the same chord progression as accompanies the opening head. (In both pieces, drummers will be expected to accompany the head, take a solo and trade four, two and one bars with the pianist).

- We'd like to encourage all candidates, where possible, to play the two prepared pieces from memory, so that they can really focus on improvising over the changes and interacting with the accompanying pianist. This isn't obligatory and playing from a lead sheet will not influence the outcome of the audition.
- All candidates will be expected to provide appropriate concert lead sheets for the jazz pianist.
- In the case of piano or guitar auditions, the provided accompanist can take on the role of a jazz bass.

Candidates will also be asked to:

a) Listen to a couple of short phrases played twice on the piano. They will then be asked to play them back on their instrument (or sing them back if their main instrument is voice).

b) Improvise over two simple chord progressions written especially for the audition, using accessible, standard jazz harmony (You can find examples on the Jazz services website). The first will use a simple progression of up to four chords, which will be repeated by the pianist, so that the candidate relies on their ears to work out the changes. The second will be a progression of up to eight chords and will be notated for the candidate using chord symbols.

c) Play a short free improvisation with the provided jazz pianist.

d) Take part in a short conversation so we can hear about the candidate's individual interests.

Rhythm section players will also be asked to demonstrate a variety of different grooves and feels (see the Jazz Services website for more detail).

B) Arrangers and composers.

Arrangers and composers will be asked to submit a portfolio of works (with live or midi file recordings where possible) by March 17th 2007. They will then be invited to attend an interview as part of the regional audition day during which they will be interviewed by two adjudicators. They will also be asked to sing and notate a couple of short phrases played twice on the piano.

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5. BURSARY:

Jazz Services, in partnership with Youth Music, are keen to ensure that no one is deterred from applying to attend the National Youth Jazz Summer School for financial reasons. While auditions are free, we realise that for some, travel costs can be prohibitively expensive. Where there is a clear need for financial assistance, limited funds are available from the National Youth Jazz Summer School's Bursary Scheme. Eligible applicants aged under 16 can also apply to have their carer's travel costs covered.

Our bursary committee will be meeting on 1st March 2007 to consider applications for financial assistance to attend auditions.

As a guide, the distance you have to travel, or the large number of auditions you are attending for various educational activities, are not sufficient reason for allocating funds. A low family income with support from housing benefit or free school meals, or other financial pressures are the kind of reasons that the bursary committee will consider. We are here to help, so if you wish to discuss your financial application please call us on 0207 928 9089 or write to us on summerschool@jazzservices.org.uk. Your application will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

6. REGISTRATION FEE:

All successful applicants will be asked to pay a registration fee of £100 when accepting their place on the National Youth Jazz Summer School.

Both Jazz Services and Youth Music are keen to ensure that no one is deterred from attending the National Youth Jazz Summer School for financial reasons. Where there is a clear need for financial assistance, including coverage of some or all of the registration fee and /or travel costs to and from the summer school, limited funds are available from the National Youth Jazz Summer School's Bursary Scheme.

Our bursary committee will be meeting on 25th May 2007 to consider successful applicants' request for financial assistance to attend the summer school.

As with the applications for travel subsidies for the auditions, the sort of reasons that the bursary committee will consider as qualifying for financial assistance are a low family income, support from housing benefit or free school meals, and other financial pressures. We are here to help, so if you wish to discuss your financial application please call us on 0207 928 9089 or write to us on summerschool@jazzservices.org.uk. Your application will be treated with the strictest of confidence

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Please complete and return by 23rd February 2007 to the National Youth Jazz Summer School Administrator, Jazz Services Ltd, 132 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SW.

A. Personal Details

1. Name of Applicant [please print]

2. Male Female [please tick]

3. Home Address [please print]

_____ Post Code _____

4a) Telephone _____ 4b) Mobile _____

5. E-mail _____ 6. Date of Birth _____

B. Education Details

1. Local District Council

2. School or College currently attended (Applicants need not be in education right now).

C. Music Education Details

1. What's your main instrument, or are you primarily a vocalist, composer or arranger?

2. What other instruments do you play (including voice, composition and arranging)?

3. How long have you been learning your main instrument/ singing/ composing/arranging?

4. Please give details of music grades or diplomas that you have passed. Please give the grades and marks achieved, board and syllabus taken and dates on which these qualifications were sat (It REALLY doesn't matter if you've never taken a grade! Many great jazz musicians haven't either!).

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(C. Music Education continued)

5. Which jazz musicians do you listen to? How does this listening help you with your own development?

6. What have you been studying over the last 3 months that has helped your development as a jazz musician and how has this helped develop your skills?

7. If you are currently a member of a jazz orchestra or ensemble please give details, including contact details of the music director.

8. Have you had any compositions/arrangements performed (Please tell us the title, instrumentation and who performed it)?

9. Do you use any music software (Which software and for what)?

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D. Audition centres.

Preferred Audition Centre _____

Second preferred Audition Centre _____

E. Financial Support.

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Our bursary committee will be meeting on 1st March 2007 to consider applications for financial assistance to attend auditions.

As a guide, the distance you have to travel, or the large number of auditions you are attending for various educational activities, are not sufficient reason for allocating funds. A low family income with support from housing benefit or free school meals, or other financial pressures are the kind of reasons that the bursary committee will consider. We are here to help, so if you wish to discuss your financial application please call us on 0207 928 9089 or write to us on summerschool@jazzservices.org.uk. Your application will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

1. Please give your reasons for requesting financial support.

2. Please give the estimated costs to and from the audition (indicate whether this is just the cost for the applicant, or whether in the case of under 16 year olds it also includes the fare of a carer).

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F. Equal opportunities

Please choose ONE from the following 14 and then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

Cultural Diversity:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| White British | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White European | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black British | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mixed Race | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Please specify) _____ | |

Disability:

Please let us know if you have a disability, so that we can make your access to the venue and time in the audition as comfortable as possible.

G. Reference and signatures.

1. Name, address and telephone number of the referee _____

(Please include a hard copy of your reference with this application form, as we'll need a reference before we can process your application. Please do not ask referees to forward their reference to us by email, as we're unable to spend time matching up emailed references with application forms. If you're having problems getting the reference to us in time for the deadline date please call us on 0207 928 9089 or write to us on summerschool@jazzservices.org.uk).

2. Signature of Head Teacher [if applicant is still at school] _____

3. Signature of Head of Music, Musical Director of Jazz Youth Ensemble
or instrumental/vocal/composition/arranging teacher _____

*Please specify whether the signatory is Head of Music, Musical Director of Jazz Youth Ensemble
or instrumental/vocal/composition/arranging teacher* _____

4. Signature of Parent/Guardian [if applicant is under 16] _____

5. Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Data Protection

In terms of the Data Protection Act 1998, you are informed that part or all of the information you give us will be held on computer and used for statistical purposes. We are happy to provide you with copies of the information we hold about you.

Many thanks for your application. We look forward to receiving it!