



Take it away

On 2 July, Arts Council England will launch 'Take it away', a new scheme aimed at making musical instruments more affordable, particularly for families and those on lower incomes.

The objective of the scheme is to encourage more people to get involved in learning and playing music by removing the financial barrier that may have stopped them from doing this previously. The scheme allows individuals to apply for a loan of up to £2,000 for the purchase of any kind of musical instrument, and pay it back in nine monthly instalments (with a minimum 10% deposit), completely interest free.

Following a successful six month pilot in the South East, Take it away loans will now be available through a network of almost 100 musical instrument retailers across the country that can provide assistance in choosing an instrument appropriate for a customer's needs.

From electric guitars to classical harps, all instruments are included in the scheme and are encouraged by Arts Council England. Additionally, to help musical development and manage costs, where available equipment and services such as music stands, amplifiers, sheet music and tuition can also be included within the loan.

Take it away will be open to anyone over 18 (although terms and conditions apply), but the scheme will specifically be targeted at three priority groups:

- People buying an instrument for the first time
- People buying an instrument for a young person
- People on lower than average incomes (£22,500)