

'TOTALLY TEENAGE' AT 70

THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN
ANNOUNCES ITS 2018 MUSICIANS AND CONCERTS

Friday, November 17, 2017

The [National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain](#) (NYO) has today announced the 164 musicians who will make up its 2018 orchestra of teenagers (aged 13 to 19). Gaining a place in NYO is a huge achievement, and this year auditions for over 700 musicians were held in 11 cities across the UK. During the year NYO Musicians will participate in three residencies with inspirational music directors, give major concerts, play live on BBC Radio 3, appear on Classic FM, and participate in the NYO *Inspire* programme. They will be a part of NYO's 70th anniversary celebrations, which include several 'firsts' for the Orchestra.



In January 2018 NYO will perform a complete opera for the very first time: Bartók's macabre fairy-tale **Duke Bluebeard's Castle**, conducted **Sir Mark Elder**. Three concerts, in Manchester's Bridgewater Hall (5 January), Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall (6 January) and London's Barbican (7 January) celebrate the magical, mythical and weird in music, including Dukas' *Sorcerer's Apprentice* and Lyadov's *The Enchanted Lake*.

In another first, as part of the official month-long 70th celebrations in April, **NYO divides into two ensembles**; one orchestra performs **Leonard Bernstein's MASS** with conductor Marin Alsop, directed by Jude Kelly CBE, and the other orchestra takes on Bernstein's concept of the concert for young people, reinventing it as **NYO Unleashed**, concerts *by* teenagers *for* teenagers, conducted by Kwame Ryan.

MASS is part of a 'teenage takeover' weekend at Southbank Centre, where NYO is Associate Orchestra. NYO will partner with Chineke! Juniors and massed choral forces for Bernstein's riotous, irreverent music theatre oratorio at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall (6 & 7 April). **NYO Unleashed** brings the visceral excitement of live orchestra performance to Birmingham Symphony Hall (7 April) and the Southbank Centre (8 April) as well as secondary schools. NYO Musicians and Young Promoters will interact with teenage audiences, drawing them into the NYO *Unleashed* experience, in music including Mason Bates' *Mothership*, John Williams' *Star Wars*, Bernstein's *Dances from West Side Story* and the *Hunger Games Suite* by James Newton Howard.

NYO will work with **Sir George Benjamin** during their Summer Residency which culminates in concerts at Aldeburgh (2 August) and Birmingham Symphony Hall (3 August) in a programme of Debussy *La Mer*, Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand with soloist **Tamara Stefanovich**, and Benjamin's *Dance Figures*.

NYO Musicians will volunteer over 1000 days as peer leaders as part of NYO *Inspire*, working side-by-side with other young people during the year, using their skills and experience to help others to expand their horizons and increase self-confidence.

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ABOUT NYO 2018

“NYO believes passionately in the value of music education for all. And by all, we mean everyone, not just those already engaged in classical music. This year over a quarter of the Orchestra has come through NYO Inspire, which shows so clearly the impact that peer role models have in supporting aspiring teenagers. We also believe, passionately, in teenagers. Through music we can empower the next generation to be brilliant, to challenge the status quo, and to inspire others. As NYO turns 70 in 2018, it is more collaborative, inclusive and brilliant than ever, a celebration of the founding principles that Britain’s teenage musicians should be taken seriously.”

Sarah Alexander, Chief Executive and Artistic Director

Equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of all the work that NYO does and giving young people inspirational role models and support are the central to NYO’s ethos, under the leadership of Sarah Alexander. The 2018 Orchestra retains its gender balance of previous years, with a small increase in female musicians taking the figure to just over 50%. There are equal numbers of female and male musicians in the trumpet and trombone sections, female principals for horn, trombone and double-bass, as well second violin, cello, flute, bassoon and harp. This balance of representation is carried through to those with Leadership positions within the orchestra as well as NYO Tutors, the Management and Support Teams and the Board. NYO Musicians are empowered through *Think Tank* – an initiative that ensures a happy community in the Orchestra - with a nominated representative from each section which shapes the way the Orchestra lives together, run by the Head of Support.

The 2018 orchestra comprises 50% from the state sector, 20% from specialist music schools - of which 87% are on government bursaries, and 30% from the private sector - of which 55% are on scholarships. NYO has seen sustained numbers of musicians who identify as non-white, averaging 27% in the last two years, significantly ahead of the 14.6% in the general teenage population. This diversity of intake reflects the success of the game-changing inclusion and access programme NYO Inspire, targeted at state schools and the BAME community, and which is leading the way in the industry. Of the 164 NYO Musicians this year, 43 (26%) have come through this pathway into the orchestra. 31 (19%) of all successful applicants are totally new to NYO, and this year NYO held auditions for over 700 candidates in 11 UK cities.

NYO FUNDING

NYO is a charity and relies on the support and commitment of its donors for over 70% of its funding. Arts Council England contributes around 12% of NYO’s income with the rest provided by individuals, trusts and foundations, and corporates. The richness and brilliance of NYO comes from its reach into all areas of the country and its diverse and inclusive culture. NYO donors have pioneered that vital work in partnership with the organisation, and continue to enable the expansion of NYO Inspire. NYO is immensely grateful to each, and every one of its supporters.

NYO PARTNERS

NYO are Classic FM’s Orchestra of Teenagers and Classic FM continues to support a £5 for under 25s ticket scheme. NYO also continues its broadcast relationship with BBC Radio 3, who will transmit performances across the season. NYO continues its relationship with unique digital platform ‘broadcasting the underground’ [Boilerroom](#) who, in addition to streaming NYO performances, made [a film introducing NYO players in 2017](#) which included an interview with Sheku Kanneh-Mason.

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MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT: www.nyo.org.uk

IMAGES AVAILABLE AT: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vy94jrh3j7wdsIr/AAAdDUk0pFkTrs-yIBqwFRVAa?dl=0>



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