



## **DIT CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT OF ORCHESTRAL STUDIES**

### **GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR CONSERVATORY ENSEMBLE MEMBERSHIP 2016-17**

The guidelines have been drawn up in agreement with the staff in the Department of Orchestral Studies to facilitate the Ensembles and Concert Manager in placing Junior Conservatory orchestral students in the appropriate ensembles. The balance in the number of instruments will continue to be a major factor in deciding membership of an ensemble. The membership of an ensemble is based on the recommendation of teachers, in consultation with the conductor, Ensembles and Concert Manager and Head of Department. The Head of Department will have final responsibility in assigning a student to an ensemble.

***N.B.** The guidelines do not apply to third-level students. The Head of Department, in consultation with individual teachers and conductors, will assign each full-time student to a major ensemble at the start of each academic year.*

#### **PROCEDURE**

1. Before the end of the academic year, the Ensembles and Concert Manager will circulate a provisional membership list for each ensemble to all staff in the Orchestral Department.
2. Each staff member is requested to review the placement of each of their students, and to contact the Ensembles and Concert Manager with any revisions. It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that each of their students is assigned to an ensemble.
3. Once the memberships of all ensembles are approved, the Ensembles and Concert Manager will post the membership lists on a public notice-board in Chatham Row by early September with the venue, date and time of rehearsals.
4. Ensemble Membership lists will be revised on the Conservatory database before the start of the Academic Year, so that attendance records can be updated.
5. All new orchestral students will be assigned an ensemble in September or January, as appropriate.
6. Junior Conservatory students should normally be assigned to only one ensemble. Where an ensemble needs additional players, an exemption may be sanctioned by the Head of Department, in consultation with the Ensemble Manager and conductors.
7. The ensemble assignment is for the full academic year.

#### **EXEMPTIONS**

- All students at a level of Grade 1 or higher, studying an orchestral instrument, are required to participate in at least one large ensemble.
- In exceptional circumstances a student may request an exemption from an ensemble by submitting an Ensemble Exemption Form to the Conservatory Office, for approval by the Ensemble and Concerts Manager. The form is available from the Conservatory's website.
- At the teacher's discretion, new students may be exempt from ensemble for their first year at the Conservatory, but new students may join an ensemble in January of their first year.
- The main criteria for ensemble membership is by grade level. Age guidelines are included and if a student falls outside the ensemble entry criteria based on grade and age guidelines, they may apply for an exemption for one year only.

#### **REHEARSALS**

- Students should have their instruments assembled/out of their cases before each rehearsal begins to ensure that the rehearsal starts on time.
- Parents are kindly asked to remain outside the rehearsal room, and deliver and collect their children in the lobby before and after rehearsals.

#### **CONCERTS**

- The concert schedule will normally be set at the beginning of the academic year to ensure full attendance at concerts and rehearsals.



## **GUIDELINES FOR ENSEMBLE MEMBERSHIP**

*The ensembles have been organised to link with the Junior Conservatory graded cycles (Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Advanced Levels) and to take account of the various age groups in the Conservatory.*

*Junior Cycle: Initial, Preliminary, Grades 1-2*

*Intermediate Cycle: Grades 3-5*

*Senior Cycle: Grades 5-8*

*Advanced Cycle: Post-grade 8*

*\*Please note that level refers to examination grade passed and progression to an ensemble takes place in September.*

### **JUNIOR ENSEMBLES**

#### **Play Strings**

**Tuesday, 4.15pm-5.15pm, DIT Chatham Row**

Grades Primary–Grade 1

Minimum Entry Standard: Pass in Primary and in exceptional circumstances Pass in Initial)

Age guideline: 8-10 years

#### **Prelude Strings**

**Wednesday, 5pm-6pm, DIT Chatham Row**

Grades 1-3

Minimum Entry Standard: Pass Grade 1

Age guideline: 8-10 years

#### **Preliminary Choir**

**Saturday, 10am-11am, DIT Rathmines Road**

Age guideline: 6 - 8/9 years

### **INTERMEDIATE ENSEMBLES**

#### **Sinfonietta**

**Saturday, 11.15am-12.15pm, DIT Rathmines Road**

Level: Grades 3-5

Minimum Entry Standard: Merit in Grade 3\* and progression to Intermediate Cycle

(Age guideline: 10-13 years)

#### **Prelude Winds**

**Saturday, 12.30pm-1.30pm, DIT Kevin Street**

New students may join in September or January as appropriate in their first year.

Level: Grades 1-4

(Age guideline: 12-15 years)

### **SENIOR ENSEMBLES**

**(Age guideline: 14-18 years and over)**

#### **Sinfonia (Saturday, 1pm-2.30pm, DIT Rathmines Road)**

Level: Grades 6-8

Minimum Entry Standard: Merit in Grade 5\* and progression to Senior Cycle

Age guideline: 14-16 years

*The Sinfonia focuses on string orchestral training and may be joined by wind/brass/percussion as required.*

**Concert Band (Saturday, 2pm-3.30pm, DIT Kevin Street)**

Level: Grades 5-8

Minimum Entry Standard: Merit in Grade 4\* and should be 14 years or over.

Age guideline: 14-18 years

**ADVANCED ENSEMBLES**

**Age guideline: 18 years and over**

**Wind Ensemble (Wednesday, 5.30pm-7.30pm, DIT Kevin Street)**

Level: Advanced Level (Grade 8+)

Minimum Entry Standard: Pass in Grade 7\*.

**Jazz Ensemble**

Membership: The Jazz Ensemble is for Master of Music Jazz Students.

**DIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**(includes Chamber Winds, Chamber Brass and Camerata)**

Level: Advanced Level (Grade 8+)

Minimum Entry Standard: Pass in Grade 7\*.

**Tuesdays 5.30pm-7.30pm**, with additional rehearsals on Friday or Monday evenings before concerts.

The Symphony Orchestra will work on a project basis and will perform at least two major concerts each academic year. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings (5.30pm-7.30pm) and these rehearsals can be section-based or for full orchestra.

**Membership:**

*Wind, Brass and Percussion:* Advanced and senior players will be invited to be members of the Symphony Orchestra. Third-level students will have priority. The wind, brass and percussion sections will rehearse regularly as separate sections with a specialised lecturer. The rehearsals will cover the orchestral parts for the Symphony Orchestra and repertoire for wind, brass or percussion ensembles.

*Strings:* Camerata and senior members of the Sinfonia will combine for Symphony Orchestra programmes.

*Saxophone/Harp/Piano:* as required.

**Repertoire:**

An artistic committee will review repertoire choices for the Symphony Orchestra concerts and will consult with staff and students. The conductor, in consultation with the Head of Department and the Ensembles and Concert Manager, will make the final decision on repertoire. All programmes are to be approved by the Conservatory Planning Committee.

**CHAMBER MUSIC**

Vanbrugh Quartet will form chamber music groups at the beginning of each semester. Chamber music coaching is available to third-level students and part-time students in the Senior and Advanced Cycles.

*Please note: All senior students receiving string chamber music coaching from the Vanbrugh Quartet must be members of the Symphony Orchestra.*