



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



**Information on Ensembles supported by the Department of Music
& University of Sheffield Concerts Series (2021-2022)**



UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
concerts

1 ABOUT OUR MUSIC ENSEMBLES

The Department of Music and University of Sheffield Concerts provide opportunities for students across the whole University to participate in musical ensembles, the outputs of which make a significant contribution towards the University and city's cultural life and vibrancy. Around 150 students a year participate in ensemble music-making, featuring students from all faculties. Ensembles have a prominent place in University of Sheffield Concerts' series, performing regularly in its Forged in Sheffield season, a programme dedicated to showcasing emerging talent from across the University and city.

In addition to performing in concerts, ensembles feature in outreach and education events, civic occasions, tour internationally, and participate in national competitions. Ensembles champion creative application, and in addition to ensemble performing provides opportunities for student soloists, conductors and composers.

Ensembles have their own committees. In addition to playing in ensembles there are opportunities to get involved in behind-the-scenes work, building skills in music management and arts administration.

2 ENSEMBLE MEMBERSHIP

Membership for the following ensembles is open to students from across the University, subject to an audition. Information on audition arrangements for the 2021-22 year can be found in information on specific ensembles on subsequent pages.

Each student participating in an ensemble pays a fee:

£15 per semester (reduced to £10 for Music students)

This is the maximum a student will pay, regardless of how many ensembles they participate in.

For this each ensemble (and members in turn) receive:

- A paid conductor for eight two-hour rehearsals
- A rehearsal venue
- One concert opportunity per semester in the University of Sheffield Concerts series
- Access to equipment and percussion instruments
- A budget to support concert performances and projects
- A Concerts Pass offering free entry to all University of Sheffield Concerts events

For more information on ensembles in general please contact: concerts@sheffield.ac.uk

Concert Schedule for the Autumn term (Spring dates to follow):

University of Sheffield Chamber Orchestra: Wednesday 15th December 5.45pm

University of Sheffield Chamber Choir: Saturday 4th December, 7.30pm

Sheffield University Wind Orchestra: Sunday 28th November, 7.30pm

Sheffield University Symphony Orchestra: Sunday 5th December, 7.30pm

Information on the four main ensembles follows.

3 SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY WIND ORCHESTRA (SUWO)



Sheffield University Wind Orchestra is an award winning and dynamic group of musicians drawn from students from all disciplines. We have regular concerts in the University, in Sheffield and around the country along with a yearly tour abroad, performing a wide variety of repertoire written for symphonic wind orchestra.

Founded in 2000, SUWO has become one of the most dynamic musical groups at the University, led by alumnus and conductor Gareth Widdowson. SUWO has performed concerts in the grandest of venues in Europe, including cathedrals in Berlin, Strasbourg, Brussels and Frankfurt.

SUWO is proud to provide opportunities for student conductors and soloists to perform as well as premiering new music by student and established composers.

The orchestra rehearses every **Tuesday from 7-9.30pm** in Firth Hall. Please visit the SUWO stall at the Activities Fair on **Thursday 23rd September** to hear all about this exciting group from current members and to register your interest.

Auditions will be held in the Octagon Centre from **4pm on Monday 27th September**. There are vacancies in all sections, so if you play Woodwind, Brass, Percussion or Double Bass, we need you! Find the committee at the Activities Fair at the Students' Union in Intro Week to sign up, or contact the president for a form to sign up. Those who are successful will be invited to the first rehearsal of term on **Tuesday 5th October**, for a **7pm** start.

Please direct any enquiries to:

Director of SUWO: Gareth Widdowson gareth.widdowson@gmail.com

President of SUWO: Theo Letts tcrletts1@sheffield.ac.uk

4 SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (SUSO)



Sheffield University Symphony Orchestra is a collaboration of the best musicians from across the University. We put on two major concerts every year in which we perform a wide variety of orchestral work as well as new music by student composers! This year we will provide the opportunity for two of our members to conduct the orchestra in rehearsal and in concert as well as giving the opportunity for soloists to perform.

The Symphony Orchestra rehearses on **Monday nights from 7-9.45pm** in Firth Hall and the first tutti rehearsal of the year will take place on **Monday 11th October**. To find out more about us and to sign up to auditions please find us at the activities fair on Thursday 23rd September or attend our give it a go session on the 24th September from 5-7pm.

Our auditions will be held in the Octagon Centre from 4pm onwards on Monday 27th September. All symphonic instruments are needed! Students will be required to play one excerpt out of a choice of three from the upcoming repertoire, which will be emailed out in the evening of Friday 24th September, and a short excerpt as sight reading.

Please direct any enquiries to:

Director of SUSO: Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey c.ponchione-bailey@sheffield.ac.uk

President of SUSO: Amelia Potter acpotter1@sheffield.ac.uk



conductors and composers. Typically, our repertoire includes late Baroque / early Classical symphonic works and concerti, works for string orchestra, and 20th-century music. The Chamber Orchestra is known for its vibrant, exciting performances, and its concerts are well-attended by appreciative audiences.

Sheffield University Chamber Orchestra is an auditioned student ensemble with a membership drawn from across the university. The core of the ensemble is a small string section and single winds, with extra players drafted in as our programmes require. The orchestra performs within the University of Sheffield Concerts and also outside the university, and we work regularly with student soloists,

The Chamber Orchestra rehearses on **Wednesdays from 2-4pm** in **Drama Studio Rehearsal Room 3**. The run of rehearsals before each performance is generally quite short compared to the other university ensembles. Auditions for the Chamber Orchestra are integrated with auditions for the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Orchestra, and take place at the Octagon Centre from **4pm** on **Monday 27th September**. Auditions will involve sight reading an orchestral excerpt, and may also involve playing a short prepared piece. Chamber Orchestra has vacancies across the ensemble for the coming year.

Please direct any enquiries to:

Director of the Chamber Orchestra: Adrian Moore a.j.moore@sheffield.ac.uk



collaborated with musicians from as far afield as Finland, and with leading musicians such as English Touring Opera and Sheffield Cathedral Choir.

Sheffield University Chamber Choir is made up of students from both the department of music and of other departments throughout the University. The SATB choir has 30 members and performs several concerts annually, both at the University and elsewhere in the city, and also leads in the University's Service of Remembrance and the official University Carol Service. The choir tour regularly and recent trips have included concerts in Dublin, Paris and London. They have

The choir rehearses **Wednesday afternoons from 4-6pm** in the **Drama Studio Rehearsal Room 3**. There are currently vacancies in the choir for all voice parts. Previous choral experience is essential.

Auditions will be arranged prior to the first rehearsal. Please prepare a short piece to sing. You will be given a piece of sight reading on the day and also be taught a small excerpt to repeat back from memory. Successful candidates will be invited to the first rehearsal of term, currently due to be **Wednesday 6th October at 4pm**.

To sign up for auditions, find us on Facebook by searching for **University of Sheffield Chamber Choir** or come and see us at the Activities Fair on **Thursday 23rd September**.

Please direct any enquiries to:

Director of UOSCC: Colin Hand Conducting Scholar - Matthew Warbis Matthew.warbis@gmail.com
 President of UOSCC: Hannah Cooper hcooper3@sheffield.ac.uk

The **New Music Ensemble** is an elite ensemble that performs new compositions by living composers, including students, staff and guests, as well as 20th and 21st-Century repertoire. Each New Music Ensemble concert is a uniquely-curated listening experience for audiences, often featuring innovative instrumentations and uses of space. There is generally one concert per semester (early November and March) with opportunities for additional performances at external venues (e.g. DINA and Upper Chapel).

The NME lineup varies from concert to concert, depending on the selected repertoire, which includes mainly chamber music for 2-15 performers. It is an opportunity for students to explore new composers, genres, playing techniques, and ensemble formats. Performers work closely with composers and sometimes become creatively involved through improvisation or interpretation of open scores. The concerts are also a platform for solo performance of new music.

The New Music Ensemble operates on a **variable rehearsal schedule**, which may include one or two weekends and evenings in the run up to a concert and an extended dress rehearsal. Rehearsals will not clash with those for other ensembles. and ensemble members are expected to commit to the schedule once it has been agreed.

Associate Conductor Position

Newly created from 2021-22 is the auditioned position of **New Music Ensemble Associate Conductor**. The selected student will participate in the concert in Semester 2. They will work with the ensemble directors to select repertoire and be responsible for directing and preparing performances to a high standard. This is a development opportunity and they will receive support and mentoring from the ensemble directors. Students who would like to audition for this position should contact Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey c.ponchione-bailey@sheffield.ac.uk.

Auditions

If you are auditioning for SUWO or SUSO you will automatically be considered for New Music Ensemble.

Please direct enquiries to:

Artistic Director: Dorothy Ker d.ker@shef.ac.uk

Musical Director: Sarah Watts s.watts@sheffield.ac.uk

Conducting mentor: Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey

c.ponchione-bailey@sheffield.ac.uk

Composers who would like to have their work considered for performance should make contact with Professor Dorothy Ker d.ker@shef.ac.uk