

WANDSWORTH CONCERT ORCHESTRA

REHEARSAL & CONCERT DATES 2025/26

Dear Wandsworth Concert Orchestra members, parents and carers,

I hope you are well and have had a relaxing summer break! Whether you are a brand new member, or returning for another year, we are excited for you to be a part of the Wandsworth Music community, and look forward to an exciting year of sharing music with you!

I am writing to share details about the 25-26 academic year rehearsals, half term orchestral courses, and performances. The key dates are outlined below and can also be found on the WCO webpage www.wandsworthmusic.co.uk/wco along with other important information about WCO. This page will be updated throughout the year.

****ACTION****

Please read the following information and confirm your child's attendance at rehearsals, half term courses and performances for 2025/26 by completing this [FORM](#) by Monday 6 October at the latest.

Rehearsals

Unless otherwise notified, rehearsals take place in the main drama hall or refectory at Burntwood School. Rehearsals start promptly at 12.30pm, so please ensure that you are in your seat, warmed up and ready to start playing at that time.

At the end of rehearsals please help to tidy away chairs, stands and music. Our percussionists will always appreciate anyone willing to lend a hand in moving the instruments back into the store cupboard!

It is **extremely important** that members are able to attend all rehearsals (including the half term course) and are downloading their music, looking at difficult passages **with their teachers** and practising **before rehearsals**. As always, practice parts can be found online here: www.tinyurl.com/wandsworthmusic

A reminder that WCO members are expected to:

- Give their full commitment and have regular and punctual attendance at all regular rehearsals, courses, workshops and performances.
- Arrive at least 10 minutes before the start time (unless coming from another WMA lesson)
- Be prepared for rehearsals by:
 - Downloading the relevant music for their instrument(s).
 - Learning parts thoroughly before the rehearsals.
 - Taking music to their lessons to go through with their teacher.
- Bring a pencil and rubber to rehearsals
- Follow rehearsal etiquette by turning off mobile phones and paying full attention to the conductor

If you are unable to attend a rehearsal or are running late or unwell on the day of a rehearsal or performance, please inform John (07966 426345) as soon as possible.

KEY DATES 25-26

Full details of WCO rehearsal dates can be found here: www.wandsworthmusic.co.uk/wco

30 Oct, 31 Oct, 1 Nov 2025: Autumn Half Term Course (full attendance expected)

Sat 22 Nov 2025: Extended Rehearsal until 3.30pm (please bring packed lunch)

Sat 6 Dec 2025: WMA Christmas Concert (No Concert Orchestra Rehearsal this week)

Wed 10 Dec 2025: Winter Sounds 1, Fairfield Halls, Croydon

19, 20, 21 Feb 2026: Spring Half Term Course (full attendance expected)

Sat 14 March 2026: Extended Rehearsal until 3.30pm (please bring packed lunch)

Tue 24 March 2026: Brighter Sounds 1, Fairfield Halls, Croydon

Sat 11 July 2026, time tbc: WMA Summer Concert

Further information regarding 2026 rehearsal and concert dates will be sent in due course.

WINTER SOUNDS 1, WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025 – CONCERT INFORMATION

Venue: Fairfield Halls, Park Ln, London CR9 1DG

Arrival time: 4pm. All members must attend the afternoon rehearsal. Please let us know if you have difficulty getting permission to leave school early.

After rehearsal: Pupils will be allocated a holding area in Fairfield Halls and supervised by Wandsworth Music staff between the rehearsal and the concert.

Concert Start time: 7pm

Finish time of concert: The concert is scheduled to finish at approximately 9pm. Groups will be allocated a collection point for parents at the end of the evening.

Wandsworth Music contact number on the day: Aurelie Sciamma - 07767 670611

TICKETS

Tickets are priced at £12 – £15 and can be purchased directly from Fairfield Halls. Or tickets are available via this link:

<https://www.fairfield.co.uk/events/wandsworth-winter-sounds-1-2025>

Please double check that you are purchasing tickets for the correct concert!

CONCERT DRESS

Concert dress for all performances is **SMART ALL BLACK**: Smart black trousers or knee length skirt or dress/ plain black shirt/ blouse/ black socks or tights/ polished black shoes (no trainers).

HALF TERM COURSE DETAILS – COURSES TAKE PLACE AT BURNTWOOD SCHOOL

A polite reminder that all members are expected to attend the half-term courses as these provide opportunities for intensive sectional rehearsals and coaching. The cost of each half-term course is £72 (or £36 if in receipt of FSM)

30 October, 31 October & 1 November - Autumn Half Term Course

9:45am – Arrive (Thurs, Fri, Sat)

10am to 3pm – Rehearsals & sectionals (Thurs & Fri)

10am to 1pm – Rehearsals & sectionals (Sat)

WCO repertoire to include (all parts on dropbox unless stated)

Dvorak Slavonic Dance No. 7

The Polar Express

Thunder And Lightning Polka

Gift Aid

As a registered charity we are able to claim gift aid on WMA membership fees.

Gift Aid provides vital additional funds for charities and it costs you nothing extra to allow us to claim it. In order to access this additional source of funding, we need a gift aid declaration from each parent who is prepared to support us in this way. Please support us by completing the gift aid form here - <https://wandsworthmusic.co.uk/giftaid/>

Kind regards,

Wandsworth Music