



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

13+ MUSIC AWARDS
FOR 2026 ENTRY

OUR 13+ MUSIC AWARD APPLICATION JOURNEY

YEARS

4–8

- Prospective 13+ Music Award applicants are welcome to request an informal pre-audition meeting. This offers an opportunity to discuss suitability for the different types of Music Award and receive advice in preparation.
- In Years 7 and 8 the following events take place for those who hold a place at the school:
17 January & 7 February: Our Journey Together Open Mornings with Music taster activities for Year 7 pupils.
24 September: Year 8 Orchestral workshop for Year 8 pupils.

YEAR

8

- **30 November:** 13+ Music Award application deadline. Shortlisted applicants will be notified of their audition date shortly thereafter.
- **26–30 January:** Music Award auditions



GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR 13+ MUSIC AWARDS

- Winchester College Music Awards for 13+ entry are given for performances on instruments or voice heard at audition. Where awarded, tuition is given by Winchester College teachers only.
- **Music Scholarships** carry free tuition on two instruments (or voice), unless a candidate's 2nd instrument is not at a sufficiently high standard. Music Scholars of Grade 8 standard or above will receive lessons of 60 minutes' duration on their 1st instrument; other lessons are of 40 minutes' duration. A Music Scholarship comes with a guaranteed place at the school, subject to success in the Winchester Entrance or Election exams.
- **Music Exhibitions** carry free tuition on one instrument (or voice), with lessons of 40 minutes' duration. A Music Exhibition does not come with a guaranteed place at the school.
- Consistent with the school's commitment to the proper use of its charitable funds, Music Awards carry no automatic remission of school fees. However, in cases of financial need, eligible parents may apply for means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees in the form of bursaries. Further information can be found on the Bursary section of our [website](#).
- Parents of candidates for Music Awards should also read the information regarding admission to the school on the Winchester College [website](#). In brief, applications for entry at 13+ are made to the school before the end of Year 5 (9+ to 10+), and interested parents are strongly advised to register before this date. However, candidates for Music Awards will be considered even if they have not registered and do not have a place in the school. All places at Winchester College are offered subject to success in the Entrance Examination or Scholarship Examination (Election). This includes those pupils offered a Music Award.
- Candidates at 13+ should ideally offer two instruments, one of which can be voice, and no more than four instruments in total. If a candidate offers only one instrument, it would need to be of a very high standard to receive an Award. The maximum performance time available in the audition is 15 minutes. The school reserves the right to reject an application without audition, based on information supplied by parents and teachers.
- In making Awards, we are looking for musicianship, potential and commitment alongside achievement. Generally, however, the successful +13 candidates will be at least Grade 6 (or an equivalent level) on their 1st instrument. The audition will include aural tests, sight-reading and general questions about the candidates' pieces and musical interests. Any other evidence of musicianship (composition, singing, additional instruments and interests) will be considered. Experience of music-making at a high level (e.g. cathedral or collegiate chorister, or membership of the National Children's Orchestra or county orchestras) will be regarded very positively.



-
- Candidates for 13+ entry must be under fourteen years of age on 31 August following the audition. They will need to be at Winchester College for a music audition (see page 5) which will be held in the week of **26 January 2026**. Arrangements will be made to enable candidates to enter for Awards at both Winchester and Eton College. Candidates must take either Election (the academic scholarship examination) or the Entrance examination in May of Year 8.
 - The successful candidates will normally enter the school in the September following the audition, although 13+ Awards are open to boys already in the school providing that they are under fourteen on 1 September. It is not possible to reapply in order to enhance the value of an Award already given. The Headmaster reserves the right to allocate Music Scholars, who are not already holding a House place, to any boarding house in the school, but will of course take parental preference into account.
 - Successful candidates, on entering the school, will be allowed to make a special study of music to such an extent as the Headmaster (in consultation with the Director of Music) may think desirable, and will be expected to play a full and positive part in the musical life of the school. At the appropriate time, Award holders are expected to choose Music in Year 9 and Year 10 as one of their GCSE options. The continuation of Awards is subject to satisfactory progress and commitment. Parents and successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement which commits Music Award Holders to fulfilling their obligations (see page 7).
 - It is helpful to the school, and to potential candidates, if contact is made with the Director of Music, Ms Sarah Baldock, from Year 4 (for 13+ entry). Advice can be given and a pupil's progress can be assessed at an informal pre-audition. However, parents of potential candidates should not feel that such contact is essential. Ms Baldock is also happy to give advice over the telephone. Please contact the Music Administrator on 01962 621122 or jma@wincoll.ac.uk.
 - The Music Award application form can be found online [here](#). **The deadline for submitting a 13+ award application is Sunday 30 November 2025.**



THE AUDITION: 13+ MUSIC AWARDS

The audition is designed to give an all-round view of the musical ability of the candidate, and in order that they can give their best, we try to make the day as relaxed as possible. Candidates will be met at the Music School and will be given time to warm-up and rehearse before the audition.

The audition is in two parts:

a) Performance (15 minutes)

Candidates should play/sing two contrasting pieces on their 1st instrument. Candidates may also offer one piece on any other instrument(s), and/or singing. Please be aware that we may not have time to hear all of these pieces.

Performances will be heard in the Recital Room of the Music School by members of the Music staff. Candidates will be asked to submit their audition programme in advance. An accompanist will be provided (candidates are not permitted to bring their own accompanist). Please remember to bring the accompaniment part(s) for the pieces being presented. Singers are reminded to provide the accompaniment in the key in which they will be singing.

A Yamaha grand piano is provided for the use of all candidates. 1st study organists will perform on the two-manual and pedal organ in the Chantry Chapel or the three-manual Chapel Organ. (Help will be provided with stops and warming up on the instrument before the audition.) The school can also provide percussion instruments and harpsichord if required. Please contact the Music Administrator well in advance.

b) Practical tests (10 minutes)

Aural and sight-reading tests (on the candidate's 1st instrument only) will be given.

There is no written paper, but general viva voce questions may be asked.



PROCEDURE FOR ACCEPTING 13+ MUSIC AWARDS

Winchester College follows the procedure for 13+ Music Awards published by the Music Teachers' Association (MTA). This can be summarised as follows:

- Schools must be placed in order of preference on each application form. Once applications have been submitted, the order of preference may not be altered. Candidates must declare to all schools their intentions. Winchester College will give full consideration to all candidates irrespective of the order of preference. The order of preference must be identical on the application form to each school.
- Parents should complete the application form(s) then pass all the paperwork, including the instrumental report sheets, to the pupil's current school for confidential testimonials to be added. The pupil's current school (not the parent) should then return the completed application form(s) (together with a confidential reference) to each school at which a Music Award is being sought.
- No school will make offers or intimations of Awards before the Award auditions.
- The pupil's current school will be notified promptly following the auditions by the school of first choice.
- When applications are made to more than one school, the second choice school will wait to hear from the first choice school whether or not an offer is being made. If an offer is being made by the first choice school, the second choice school should not make an offer. If the first choice is not going to make an offer, then the second choice school is permitted to make an offer.
- An identical procedure follows for the school of third choice.
- Parents who place Winchester College as their first choice will be asked to signify their intention to accept a Music Award at Winchester if it is offered.



CONDITIONS OF MUSIC AWARDS

In addition to the general terms and conditions applicable to all pupils set out in the Parent Contract, all Music Award holders are required to:

- Play a full and active part in the musical life of the school, including membership of school and house instrumental and vocal ensembles, and performances in concerts. The minimum expectation is that all Award holders will perform in an Informal or Chamber Concert once per year, and will take part in two ensembles each week assigned by the Director of Music. This will usually include singing in Winchester College Choral Society which gives a large-scale concert each year, usually in Winchester Cathedral.
- Attend all instrumental and/or singing lessons, and maintain progress in their instrumental and/or vocal studies through a commitment to regular practice and preparation for lessons, including during examination periods.
- Set an example to other pupils through their commitment, regular punctual attendance and positive demeanour at rehearsals for the ensembles in which they play or sing.
- Regularly attend concerts, and assist with the organisation of concerts when requested.
- Choose Music in Year 9 and Year 10 & 11 as one of their GCSE options.
- Prioritise their musical commitments ahead of other activities, other than academic work through good organization of academic work and maintain attendance at music lessons and ensembles..
- Understand that their Music Award will be subject to annual review and may be withdrawn in accordance with (or by reference to) the terms upon which such Award is made and/or if, in the opinion of the Director of Music, their attendance, progress and/or behaviour (and/or parental behaviour or conduct (or the conduct or behaviour of one parent)) no longer merit the continuation of the Award.
- Notice may be given at any time if the above conditions are not being met, after which the Award holder will be encouraged to make improvements during the ensuing six term-time weeks. If the conditions remain unmet, the Award will be withdrawn at the end of that term.
- In order to maintain the purpose of the scholarship fund from which Music Award holders' lessons are paid, parents may be billed for lessons missed without reasonable cause.



- In particular, Music Award holders are expected to continue to attend music lessons arranged at suitable times through public examination periods, and to remain in school to the end of each term to take part in musical activities. Non-attendance at these will incur charges payable by parents.
- Individual music lessons will be charged at £78.48 inclusive of VAT per hour in 2025-2026.

The school will provide all Music Award holders with:

- Instrumental/vocal teaching of a high standard that enables each Award holder to make appropriate progress. This may on occasion include masterclasses, workshops or consultation lessons.
- A range of musical opportunities appropriate to the needs of each Award holder. Award holders will normally be given priority when selections are made for ensembles or performances, although other factors (such as seniority in the school) will also be taken into account.
- Encouragement and support, including guidance on maintaining a balance between their academic studies, musical studies and other activities.
- Opportunities for musical leadership, for example through leading one of the orchestras, directing a performance or organising a concert.
- Advice and guidance on appropriate repertoire, performance opportunities, and on choral/organ scholarships, university or conservatoire entry, if appropriate.



MUSIC STAFF



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

Ms Sarah Baldock *Director of Music*

Mr Edmund Evans *Head of Academic Music*

Mr Dónal McCann *Organist and Head of Chapel Music*

Mr Benjamin Cunningham *Deputy Head of Chapel Music*

Mr Thomas Barton *Head of Woodwind, Brass and Percussion*

Mr Rafael Bolivar *Head of Strings*

Mr David Hurley *Head of Singing*

Miss Joanna Ambrose *Music Administrator*

Mrs Tabitha Salisbury *Music School Operations Coordinator*

Keyboard Faculty

Sarah Baldock *Organ*

Sallie Birchall *Piano*

George Castle *Organ*

Louise Cournarie *Piano*

Benjamin Cunningham *Organ*

Andrew Daniels *Jazz Piano*

Nao Dickson *Piano*

Philip Dimitrovski *Piano*

Béla Hartmann *Piano*

Maria-Lena Loncke *Piano*

Dónal McCann *Organ*

Stephen Robbins *Piano*

Laura Ryder *Piano*

Nicholas Salwey *Piano*

Sophie Saraby *Piano*

Drew Steanson *Piano*

Vocal Faculty

Simon Birchall

David Clegg

Simon Gallear

Katie Gilbert

Thomas Humphreys

David Hurley

James Ottaway

Claire Rutter

String Faculty

Raphael Bolivar *Violin*

Anca Campanie *Violin*

Peter Davis *Violin*

John Kane *Violin*

Catherine Lawlor *Violin*

Rebecca Miles *Baroque Violin/Recorder*

Scott Dickinson *Viola*

Nathalie Pacey *Viola*

Lionel Handy *Cello*

Nicola Heinrich *Cello*

Hannah Grimley *Double Bass*

Bastien Terraz *Double Bass/Bass Guitar*

Mark Eden *Guitar*

Richard Morrow *Electric/Acoustic Guitar*

Joanna Levine *Viols*

Hayley Wild *Harp*

Woodwind, Brass & Percussion Faculty

Karen Wills *Flute*

Edward Kay *Oboe*

Hugo Lau *Clarinet*

Catriona Scott *Clarinet*

Josie Simmons *Saxophone*

Paul Stiles *Saxophone*

Tamsin Rowlinson *Bassoon*

Robert Harris *Horn*

Peter Widgery *Horn*

Julian Poore *Trumpet*

James Wall *Trumpet*

Thomas Barton *Trombone/Tuba/Euphonium*

Keith Bartlett *Percussion*

Alan Brown *Percussion*

Sebastian Guard *Percussion*

Jim Dawson *Bagpipes*



Winchester College, College Street, Winchester SO23 9NA

admissions@wincoll.ac.uk www.winchestercollege.org

Registered Charity No. 1139000

"Music here is great because there is a lot of time to pursue your individual musical interests as well as collaborate with other people. There are a lot of people who are interested in music and want to play together".

"Music here is on a whole other level...you feel very included and feel like you can make a lot of progress".

"I'd only ever played Classical music but since joining here I've tried a bit of Jazz which has been a bit out of my comfort zone but the music teachers are here to push you and make you the best you can be".

"You can do everything and everyone will be interested in what you are doing. To have that community is I think the most enjoyable part of Winchester".

Winchester College Music Awards are available for entry at
8+ (Quiristers via The Pilgrims' School), 13+ and 16+.

