

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Year 7 (11+) & Year 9 (13+) music scholarships



Music at Sevenoaks

Music at Sevenoaks School is housed in The Space, our magnificent performing arts centre. This boasts a 400-seat concert hall, the Pamoja Hall, and in this we host an array of concerts from classical to rock – these are often run entirely by the students as well as by professionals from London and the South East, such as The Sixteen and the Sacconi Quartet.

About 700 instrumental music lessons take place each week. The Symphony Orchestra is made up of over 50 students and recent performances have included Dvorak's 9th symphony From The New World and Mahler's 1st symphony.

There is a Choral Society of over 100 which has performed works such as Orff's Carmina Burana and Mozart's Requiem. The school's chamber choir, The Sennocke Consort, has recently toured Belgium, Spain and Italy. For those musicians who wish to enjoy the more intimate art of chamber music, we have a thriving programme and the school has enjoyed much success in the national Pro Corda Festival and has won several awards for chamber music over the last ten years.

For many, the highlights of the first two terms are two concerts which focus on jazz, rock and pop music. The school has several Big Bands and also a large Gospel Choir called Voices. We have a number of independently formed rock groups who populate the school's charity concerts and these raise a large amount of money for Sixth Form projects every year.

Music scholarships

Music scholarships are offered annually at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

Criteria

A satisfactory performance in the appropriate entrance examination is a condition of a Music scholarship.

Music scholarships are open to boys and girls from any school. Candidates should be under 12.0, 14.0 or 17.0 years on 1 September of the year of entry into Year 7, Year 9 or the Sixth Form, respectively.

What we are looking for, above all, is an enthusiasm for making music, and holders of awards are expected to participate fully in the musical life of the school, involving themselves in choirs, orchestras and chamber ensembles according to their interests and expertise. They should want to be a member of groups such as the Choral Society and be prepared to commit to attending the rehearsals and performances.

We expect a Sixth Form entrant to be around Grade 8 standard on their principal instrument, although they may not have taken this examination. At 11+ and 13+ we are looking for potential as

much as achievement and a genuine enthusiasm for music. At 13+, approximately Grade 6 standard is required and at 11+ approximately Grade 4 to 5, depending on the instrument the candidate is presenting.

Accurate assessment of a candidate's musical ability and potential at this young age is difficult. Scholarships may be awarded, however it is likely that we may not be able to make awards to all candidates who are clearly promising, but on whom it is difficult to make a judgement at this time. Children who are unsuccessful at 11+ often make enormous progress in Years 7 and 8. They may choose to re-audition for a scholarship prior to joining Year 9 (13+) after they and their families have met with the Director of Music to discuss their progress in the Lower School.

At 11+ entry, we are looking for potential rather than achievement and a genuine enthusiasm for music.

All awards are reviewed annually and their continuance is dependent upon satisfactory conduct, attitude, participation and progress. At such a review, holders of awards are expected to assess their own contribution and to set targets for themselves.

Assessment

Prospective Music scholars should complete the Music scholarship application form detailing your interests and experiences. We are also keen to see the most recent mark sheet for any instrumental music exam.

Application forms for 11+ and 13+ entry are available on the website, but Sixth form applicants will need to register with the school and request the application form, which will be sent to applicants as requested once the registration process has been completed.

The first stage of the scholarship process involves all applicants making a video recording of themselves performing one piece of Music of their choice. Our preferred formats are .mp4 .avi .mpg or .wmv. Candidates should upload this recording to a portal of their choice, e.g. Vimeo, by 1 October in the year of application for 11+ and Sixth Form, and by 1 January in the year of application for 13+. For security and safeguarding reasons, we ask you to password-protect any video you upload to the platform through the Privacy/Password settings on Vimeo. See <https://help.vimeo.com/hc/en-us/articles/224817847-Privacy-settings-overview> 'Only people with a password'.

Then email smp@sevenoaksschool.org, providing these details:

- The URL (web address) of your video
- Your chosen password
- Any further information which will enable us to open the video performance of the chosen piece
- The application form
- Any material which further supports your Music scholarship application

The video will only be seen by a small number of Sevenoaks School staff to help them assess your application. Content will not be shared with other organisations. You may wish to delete your content after you have been notified of the outcome by Sevenoaks School.

Selected candidates will then be invited for an audition and/or interview by the Head of Department. It is our strong preference that this further stage be completed in person, but arrangements can be made for online assessment if necessary.

The Audition

All candidates invited to audition are required to play two contrasting pieces on their first instrument and one on their second instrument, if applicable. They are also encouraged to sing a short piece, unless voice is already one of their instruments. There is no written paper but a sight reading and an aural test appropriate to the candidate's grade will be required. The sight reading will take the form of a quick study. Candidates will be provided with a short piece of music on their first instrument which is approximately grade 3 standard. They will be given 15 minutes private study time in which to achieve a reasonable sense of fluency with the piece and to show some musical understanding. As part of the audition there will be a conversation about the candidate's musical interests and ambitions.

The dates for Year 7 and Year 9 Music Scholarship auditions are:

Year 7 (11+) Auditions will take place in early November in the year prior to entry. The Music Department will be in contact in mid-October with the audition date. The sooner we receive the application form and video the sooner we will be able to confirm the audition date.

Year 9 (13+) Early May in the year of entry (Thursday 2 May 2024 for Year 9 2024 entry)

Award of Scholarship

Year 7 (11+) The Scholarships will be awarded in February to those candidates of scholarship level who have also been awarded place at the school.

Year 9 (13+) The Scholarships will be awarded in June of the year of entry.

The school's decision is final.

A satisfactory performance in the appropriate entrance examination is a condition for a Music Scholarship.

Further information and details of the application process

For further information, details of the applications process and application forms, please visit www.sevenoaksschool.org/scholarships.

For Year 7, applications should be returned to the Director of Music by 1 October in the year prior to entry, and for Year 9 applications should be received by 1 February in the year of entry. For Sixth Form, applicants will be asked to indicate their interest on their confirmation forms. The Director of Music is pleased to meet candidates informally at any stage to answer queries about the scholarships. Overseas candidates will normally be required to visit the school for assessment, although in appropriate circumstances alternative arrangements may be possible.