

CLYTO PLANS FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

Dear City of Leeds Youth Training Orchestra (CLYTO) Parents, Carers and Members,

You will recently have received an email from ArtForms about our thoughts and plans for the Autumn term. We are writing today to give you some more detail about this and also to get your response as it is really important at this time that we can move forward with confidence.

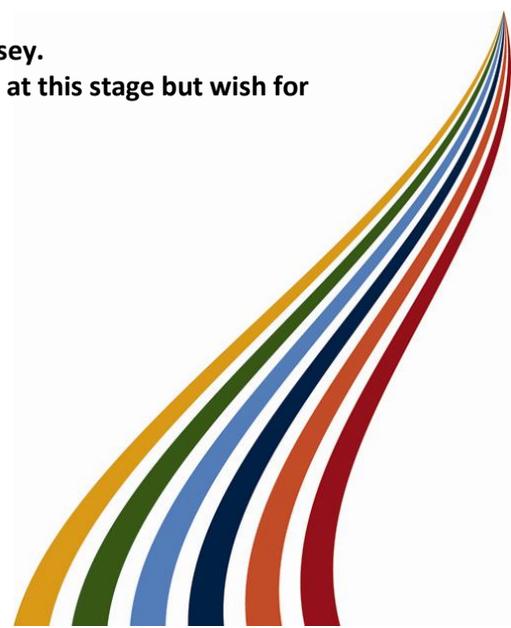
The biggest hurdle we have had to overcome in preparing to return to face-to-face rehearsals is how to utilise the space we have at Pudsey safely. Because of this it is necessary to reduce the amount of people we can have in the rooms that we use. As there are five ensembles that normally use the building on a Friday evening, it isn't possible for us to continue at the moment in the same way that we did prior to lockdown. We have put a plan together where we are going to share the space with other groups on a fortnightly basis. We will also be using Google Classrooms to supplement these sessions.

For CLYTO, what this will mean is that we will rehearse at Pudsey every two weeks and have an online rehearsal in the week we are not at Pudsey. We feel that having an online element to our rehearsing has great advantages at the moment. Following the participation of many of the children in the 'I Want to Break Free' project (which will be ready to view very shortly) we plan to invite children to participate in a similar project to produce a virtual recording of 'Don't Stop Believin'. This will form part of our rehearsal schedule for the autumn term. We have included a part for the piece with this email so your child can have a look at their part even before we meet for the first time this term. Having everyone signed up and participating online means that we will be able to continue rehearsing seamlessly should there be any interruption to normal service and to set additional tasks to aid learning. We have also had a lot of feedback from members and parents that they would like to work on some more film music this term and we will certainly be doing this too, as well as rehearsing other styles of music and participating in some workshop sessions.

When we rehearse at Pudsey we will be splitting into smaller groups (or bubbles) and depending on the number of people attending the rehearsals, children may arrive to rehearse at different times. We will obviously take into consideration siblings when creating the bubbles, which may also be divided according to age or friendship groups, rather than sections of the orchestra.

In order for us to create these bubbles, it is essential for us to know exactly how many people we are expecting to attend the rehearsals. We would be grateful if you could consider the following statements and reply to this email stating your option A, B or C.

- A) I intend for my child(ren) to return to face-to-face rehearsals at Pudsey.**
- B) I am not ready for my child(ren) to return to face-to-face rehearsals at this stage but wish for them to take part in online rehearsals.**
- C) My child(ren) will not be returning to CLYTO this year.**



We would also like to mention CLYO auditions as we know that there may be members still considering whether to apply. The details for applications are at the link below. The deadline for entry is 2pm on Wednesday 30th September.

<https://artformsleeds.co.uk/music/city-of-leeds-youth-music/city-of-leeds-youth-music-auditions-2020/>

If you would like any advice regarding auditions, Megan and I are only too happy to help so please get in touch.

Once we have received everyone's responses about rehearsing we will finalise plans and get back to you. In the meantime, if you are on FaceBook we would like to encourage you to like our page. We will initially share the video for 'I Want to Break Free' on FaceBook. This is because we think it's a fantastic final product and feel it can have a big impact for us in helping to advertise CLYTO and City of Leeds Youth Music (CLYM) groups in general, at a time when we are unable to advertise ourselves in the normal ways through giving concerts or by having as big a presence as we normally do in schools. We would like you to help to share the video so it gets seen by as many parents of potential future CLYM group members as possible! We also appreciate that not everyone will be on FaceBook and so will share the video by other means as well afterwards. The link to our page is below:

<https://www.facebook.com/CityOfLeedsYouthTrainingOrchestra>

We hope to see you all soon,

With best wishes,
Ralph Tong and Megan Swinchin

