

LSSO RETURN TO REHEARSALS

Hi everyone,

I'm so pleased to be able to tell you that LSSO has been given the 'green light' to start rehearsing together again from next week - Friday 16th Oct.

We are following and keeping up to date with all government and local guidelines surrounding COVID. To comply with these and keep everyone safe, we need to meet in groups of 15 or fewer so will be splitting the orchestra between the ballroom and our usual room. This also means that we will need to have a shorter rehearsal than normal, so will be meeting 6.30 - 7.20pm. Two of the other ensembles have already started rehearsals so we have a good system in place already and know that Pudsey Civic Hall is very safe - there are strict limits on room capacity and a clear one-way system in place. Additional measures in place:

- everyone must wear a mask when they enter the building and keep it on until they are seated in the rehearsal room (unless exempt)
- temperatures will be taken at the door
- we will be socially distanced in rehearsals (at least 2m)
- windows will be open for ventilation (so it may be cold!)
- we cannot share equipment, such as music stands. Please bring your own if you have one. If you don't have your own, you can borrow one that will be disinfected before and after use but please let me know in advance if you need one.

Google Classrooms

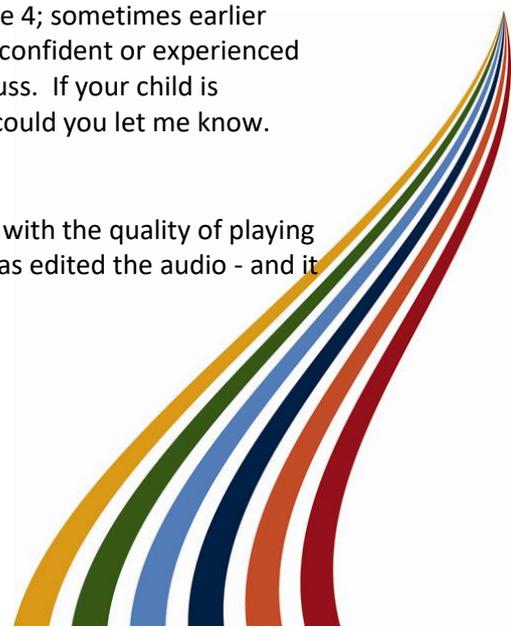
You should have also received information about our online 'Google Classroom'. Should we not be able to meet face-to-face at any point, we will be able to have online rehearsals using this platform. Please could you let me know whether you have been able to access this? I know there have been a few problems with parents accessing it in other groups.

Training Orchestra

After half term, we will be recommending that some members move up to the training orchestra. There is no audition for the training orchestra but we would normally let members know when they are ready to move up. With me being on maternity leave last year and then in lockdown, I've not been able to see everyone's progress so haven't been able to have these discussions yet. For violinists, if they are confidently playing in the 1st violin section and reading / playing fluently in 2nd and 3rd position at least, we'd be thinking about the next stage. I don't like to put a 'grade' on it because everyone is different, but generally round about grade 4; sometimes earlier where they have strong ensemble skills or sometimes later if they are less confident or experienced with orchestral skills. Violas and cellos are a little different - happy to discuss. If your child is thinking that they would like to move up to the training orchestra, please could you let me know.

I want to break free - lockdown music video

Thank you so much to everyone who recorded for this, I was so impressed with the quality of playing in the videos that were sent in. Ralph (the training orchestra conductor) has edited the audio - and it



sounds fantastic! He had a little trouble with the software for collating the videos, so I'm working on that now. It's almost finished! One of the other groups that meets on a Friday evening has done a video too that I edited over the summer, you can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLGd2th-kQ4> . You may see some familiar faces from a Friday at Pudsey!

We understand that not everyone will be ready to return to rehearsals yet, and that is absolutely fine. It is essential that we know in advance who is intending on coming to rehearsals, **so please do confirm either way** by email / phone / text. Please could you get back to me with -

- whether your child will be coming to rehearsals
- whether you have received the information / been able to access our google classroom
- whether your child is thinking about moving up to the training orchestra

If you have any questions or concerns, please drop me an email, or my work phone number is 07891 274870.

Best wishes,
Hannah

