

CLYTO REHEARSALS IN DECEMBER

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

We have been absolutely blown away by the response we've received to our virtual video. Since it was released last Wednesday, it has been viewed on our different platforms over 3000 times and generated lots of interest in our City of Leeds Youth Music groups. We hope that this will help us to recruit new members in the months to come and thank you all for the help you've given us in sharing the video. We have mostly however been so pleased to see how positive all of the comments have been about the video and we can all be really proud of what we created as a group. There will be more exciting projects ahead, both online and face-to-face and we are really excited for the coming months.

We hope everyone has had the chance to see the video, but we realise that not everyone is on the social media sites which we have shared it on. The video also appears on the ArtForms and City of Leeds Youth Music Youtube channels and there is a link to it below:

<https://youtu.be/Ts7S47VEzcY>

Moving forwards, we are looking forward to having some fun in the run up to Christmas. We have attached the music to two Christmas arrangements that we will be rehearsing; 'All I Want for Christmas' and 'White Christmas'. Please print these off to have ready to rehearse at this Friday's online session.

There is obviously a lot of uncertainty at the moment about whether our groups will be allowed to meet when the lockdown finishes next week. We recognise that there will still be many parents who are hesitant about rehearsing in person in the short term. We have thought long and hard about how we finish off this term and had prepared for returning to face-to-face and for keeping the sessions online. We have also been in discussions with other groups that would normally rehearse on a Friday evening at Pudsey. CLYO have decided to rehearse online until Christmas. There are many families with children in CLYO who have children also rehearsing in other Friday evening groups and this would be problematic for them to have a combination of online and face-to-face rehearsals on the same evening. We also feel that with just the three possible face to face sessions before Christmas it would be nice to keep the whole group together to finish the current programme of music. We have therefore come to a collective decision between the Friday night groups to keep our sessions **online for the remainder of the term.**

Our last online session of the term, on **Friday, 18th December** will be an extended festive edition of CLYTO online. We will play through all of the pieces we have rehearsed with the backing tracks in a virtual concert and would like to invite families to be present to see the performance from home. After the performance we will have a Christmas quiz to finish the term. We'll announce more details about this in the next couple of weeks.

As long as there are no restrictions in place which prevent it, **we intend to resume our face-to-face rehearsals from the start of January.** Since we last rehearsed, some of the children have moved on



to join CLYO and also we have gained a few new starters so we will need to create bubbles afresh. When we are considering the bubbles, we only have a certain amount of capacity in each group so **it is vital that you let Ralph know** if there is any change in your intentions; for instance if you are currently in the online bubble and want to return to face to face, or whether you are currently in a face-to-face bubble but don't wish to return to this once we are back in Pudsey. If you are happy to keep rehearsing as you were before lockdown then there is no need to contact us, but we do not want a situation where we place people in bubbles and then they don't take up their place. This happened in one instance before lockdown with the result that a member who wanted to rehearse face-to-face was unable to as there were no spaces left in the face-to-face bubbles. This was clearly not fair on the person concerned. There will still be the option to rehearse in the online bubble from January as well.

We will let you know which bubble your child is in and their weekly rehearsal time before the beginning of next term.

We are really pleased that over 80% of the orchestra have attended the online sessions. However we do understand that online learning is not for everyone at the moment, for a number of different reasons. We will be writing out to check in with those who haven't attended the online sessions in the coming days to see how you're getting on. We very much consider you all part of the group and we can't wait for the time when it is safe to finally get the orchestra back together in full. It seems that we are now beginning to see a route to this happening so there are certainly reasons to be hopeful.

Kind regards,
Ralph Tong and Megan Swinchin

