

## **Animate Orchestra performing ensembles**

Animate Orchestra EAST and Animate Orchestra WEST are performing ensemble drawing members from across the London Boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham (EAST) and Lambeth and Southwark (WEST). While local courses are open to all, Animate Orchestra EAST and WEST are intended as a progression opportunity for young musicians ready for a more intensive and challenging experience. The indicative age range of Animate Orchestra EAST is from school years 7 – 10, but younger children may be invited to join where they demonstrate appropriate skills or potential and fulfil the instrumental needs of the ensemble.

We believe it to be in the interests of young people that Animate Orchestra EAST and WEST are inspiring and excellent performing ensembles in which young people have real creative ownership. Courses are usually 3 days long, often with further rehearsals, recording sessions or performances, and places are restricted to a maximum of 40. The staff team and activities are similar to Animate Local courses. However, the creative process is likely to be more intensive, with more demanding artistic outcomes and there is a greater focus on rehearsal and performance.

Rather than recruit to Animate Orchestra EAST and WEST course by course, membership will be on an invitation basis, drawing from young people who have attended one or more Animate Orchestra local courses in the previous 2 years. We will be looking for young people who are highly motivated and would benefit from increased musical challenge, opportunities to make music with their peers in an older age group, and who demonstrate a higher level of creative confidence, teamwork and/or instrumental skill. The process of assessing young people's suitability for Animate Orchestra EAST and WEST will be on-going during local courses, and involves tutors and creative directors making observations and noting progress by individuals.

Creating a balance between different instrumental sections is an important consideration in selecting the ensemble. This means that entry into certain instrumental sections may be more competitive than others. We will also be seeking members with diverse skills and attributes, creating a balance within each section between instrumental skills and creative ideas. This means that members may be of different standard in terms of instrumental grade and we may not always be able to offer places to every young person who has potential to benefit. Equally, we may not always recruit 40 young people to every course, where this would not create a balanced ensemble. We may, on occasion, accept young people to the ensemble who have not attended an Animate local course (for example those new to the area, or those who have been musically active through partner organisations) where they demonstrate appropriate skills and experience and enhance the instrumental forces of the ensemble.

Animate Orchestra EAST and WEST members may continue to attend local courses, and may like to consider joining our Arts Awards Scheme, acting as Peer Mentors.

For dates of local courses, and to apply to take part, please visit [www.animateorchestra.org.uk/booking-information/](http://www.animateorchestra.org.uk/booking-information/)