



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

There are many opportunities at the University to perform in all kinds of musical ensembles and newcomers are always welcome.



Visit the music department and music society home pages:

bristol.ac.uk/music
bumsonline.org.uk

2023-24



UNIVERSITY ENSEMBLES

UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (auditioned)

**CONDUCTORS: JOHN PICKARD (AUTUMN TERM);
NEAL FARWELL (SPRING TERM)**

🕒 Rehearsals: Tuesdays 19.00-21.15, Victoria Rooms

This is the University's main orchestra, and it is conducted by members of Music staff. A full-size symphony orchestra, we perform ambitious repertoire from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries to a high standard. We aim to balance established masterworks, some less well-known pieces and contemporary music. Recent performances have included Shostakovich's 8th Symphony, Rachmaninoff's 2nd Symphony, Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde, and works by contemporary composers, including Augusta Read Thomas, Carmen Ho and Alissa Firsova. Repertoire in the autumn term will feature Holst's Beni Mora Suite, Vaughan Williams's Serenade to Music and the remarkable 2nd Symphony by the Welsh composer Grace Williams.

UNIVERSITY NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE (auditioned)

CONDUCTOR: MICHAEL ELLISON

🕒 Rehearsals: TB2 Only, Wednesdays 17.00-19.00, Victoria Rooms

NME performs brand new works and modern classics to the highest standard, bringing together leading performers from across the University to give one concert during the year, along with contributions to events such as Bristol New Music.

UNIVERSITY SINGERS (auditioned)

DIRECTOR: ELINOR COOPER

🕒 Rehearsals: Wednesdays 14.00-16.45, Victoria Rooms

Bristol University's most prestigious choir, University Singers perform a wide range of music from the Renaissance to present day to a professional standard. The choir consists of around 28 singers and is directed by experienced professional conductor, Elinor Cooper. University Singers perform at least three concerts a year, and are often invited to take part in recordings and other professional opportunities outside the university.

UNIVERSITY CHORUS (no audition)

CONDUCTOR: JOHN PICKARD

🕒 Rehearsals: Thursdays 17.30-19.00, Victoria Rooms

The University Chorus is open to all staff and students and to anyone associated with the University. There is no audition and anyone can join, though members are expected to be capable of singing from a score and to attend most of the rehearsals. We give a concert every March and participate in the University Christmas Carol Service at the end of the Autumn Term. This year, we will be singing a range of music, from Byrd to Bruckner. You can enrol online (joining fee £15.00 at shop.bris.ac.uk from 18th September). Joining is free for all Department of Music students. Please keep your email receipt as confirmation of enrolment and bring it with you to the first rehearsal so that you can collect your vocal scores. The joining fee includes copies of the music for you to keep. Please contact the Music Department's Concerts and Resources Office with any queries (tel. 0117 331 4044) or email music-resources@bristol.ac.uk



BUMS ENSEMBLES

To be in BUMS ensembles, you will need to join the Bristol University Music Society, which is the main student led Classical music society. With membership, not only can you join our ensembles, but you can also come along to socials, and have the opportunity to form new chamber groups, or even come on our tour! For the un-auditioned BUMS ensembles, you can attend one of the first sessions as a try out, but after that you will be expected to pay BUMS membership. This pays for all music, any instrument insurance and room bookings. Ask a member of the society for further information and check out our stall at Welcome Fair! For more information please contact BUMSpresident@outlook.com.

UNIVERSITY BAROQUE ENSEMBLE (auditioned)

DIRECTOR: MATEO ROBERTSON BALLOTTA

 **Rehearsals: Thursdays 19.00-21.00, Victoria Rooms**

The Baroque Ensemble is an auditioned group dedicated to historically informed, high standard performance of the baroque repertoire. Due to its smaller size and passionate members, the ensemble has a unique family ambience. Places are available for a core group of strings, woodwinds and continuo, as well as brass and percussion. For further information please email BUMSbaroque@outlook.com.

UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR (auditioned)

CONDUCTOR: MILLIE WHITTLE

 **Rehearsals: Tuesdays 19.00-21.00, Victoria Rooms**

The University Chamber Choir is an auditioned group of around 40-50 high standard singers, performing a wide and varied range of choral repertoire over the course of the year. Highlights for this year will include a Christmas Carol Concert and a joint project with the University Chamber Orchestra. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to in-person rehearsals and creating some live music. If you need any more information please email our manager at bumschamberchoir@outlook.com.

UNIVERSITY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (auditioned)

CONDUCTOR: SAM KAIL-DYKE

🕒 Rehearsals: Mondays 19.00-21.00, Victoria Rooms

Chamber orchestra is a high-standard, student lead auditioned ensemble that welcomes 40 musicians from across the university to perform a variety of thrilling professional repertoire, from classical symphonies to late romantic music. This year we have planned a programme of four concerts, including our flagship St. George's concert. Individual students have the chance to be featured through the esteemed annual concerto competition as well. Please email our manager for more information: bumschamberorchestra@outlook.com.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC WINDS (auditioned)

CONDUCTOR: JASMINE LAW

🕒 Rehearsals: Wednesdays 17.00-19.00, Victoria Rooms

Symphonic Winds is the University's auditioned concert band, performing new and classic wind repertoire to a very high standard. Symph winds has around 40 members and form a close-knit group with regular socials and extra events. This year we are planning to enter the National Concert Band Festival (NCBF) for the first time in the ensemble's recent history! Auditions take place during the first week of term. For more information visit the BUMS website www.bumsonline.org.uk or email the manager at bumssymphonicwinds@outlook.com.

UNIVERSITY WIND ORCHESTRA (no audition)

CONDUCTOR: THOMAS JENSEN

🕒 Rehearsals: Mondays 17.00-18.30, Victoria Rooms

The Wind Orchestra is the largest of the non-auditioned ensembles and performs pieces in a wide range of musical styles. We welcome all abilities of wind, brass, and percussion players, so come along, meet new people, explore new music and enjoy being in a friendly and social ensemble! Each year we compete in the South West Universities Concert Band Fest. For further information please email BUMSwindorchestra@outlook.com.

UNIVERSITY STRING ORCHESTRA (no audition)

CONDUCTOR: JAGO WEBB

 Rehearsals: Wednesdays 17.00-19.00, Victoria Rooms

String orchestra is a fun and exciting ensemble open to all string players without the pressures of auditions or intensive practice regimes. Violin, viola, cello, and double bass players are welcome to join as we strive to play challenging and engaging music to a high standard. Our repertoire is always varied, drawing on music of all genres. Players have the opportunity to showcase their work in 3 concerts over the year. For further information please email BUMSstringorchestra@outlook.com.

UNIVERSITY BRASS BAND (no audition)

CONDUCTOR: IMOGEN MCARA

 Rehearsals: Thursdays 19.00-21.00, Victoria Rooms

The University of Bristol Brass Band is a friendly, social and hardworking non-auditioned ensemble, welcoming brass and percussion players of all standards. We aim to perform at a high level, working on some challenging, yet exciting, repertoire in a relaxed and low-pressure environment. The band holds a number of concerts throughout the academic year, the highlight of which being competing at UniBrass, the annual inter-university brass band contest, in which last year Bristol won the most entertaining band! In previous years, the band has been lucky enough to have workshops led by Philip Harper, conductor of the Cory Band, as well as sectionals led by section principals. If you have any questions please email the band manager at: BUMSbrassband@outlook.com.

FLUTE CHOIR (no audition)

CONDUCTOR: BEN CONNOLLY

 Rehearsals: Fridays 17.00-19.00, Victoria Rooms

Flute Choir is a friendly and supportive ensemble, catering for a range of abilities. We are an unauditioned ensemble, who perform a variety of repertoire, including pieces written or arranged specially for us by members of the Composition Network. Whether you'd like to get back in to playing the flute, or you're an experienced player, you'd be welcome to join Flute Choir! For further information please email BUMSflutechoir@outlook.com.

MINERVA CHOIR (no audition)

CONDUCTOR: DAISY DORSCH

🕒 Rehearsals: Tuesdays 17.30-19.00 All Saints Church **

** Subject to change, please see the BUMS website and social media for the latest updates.

BUMS newest ensemble! This friendly non-auditioned choir combines pop and classical music in a fun and relaxed environment. Everyone is welcome whether you have sung in choirs for years or are wanting to try for the first time. For more information please contact BUMSminervachoir@outlook.com.

BUMS CHAMBER MUSIC (no audition)

CO-ORDINATOR: ANNA HARRIS

BUMS Chamber Music is the perfect opportunity for all instrumentalists to get involved with music at Bristol. We help you meet and connect with other chamber musicians so you can create and join ensembles, we will also be running some larger one off ensembles throughout the year too! Recent ensembles included piano trios, wind quintets and string quartets, but there are endless possibilities. We also collaborate with the composition network so composers can get their works performed. There will be many performance opportunities through the year with regular concerts happening in Clifton churches for groups to participate in. If you would like to get involved, you can fill out the BUMS chamber music form or contact Anna at bumschambermusic@outlook.com.

COMPOSITION NETWORK (no audition)

CO-ORDINATOR: JOSH GATISS

The composition network is a collective of composers within BUMS. We present and discuss the compositions we have been working on and get helpful feedback and opinions from other members. We also hold a few dedicated composition concerts to showcase your original compositions performed by other BUMS members. The network also gives commission opportunities from both within and outside of BUMS (eg. an external composition competition). For further information please email BUMScomposition@outlook.com.

WELCOME TO BRISTOL UNIVERSITY BIG BAND SOCIETY!

We have two amazing big bands which cover a full range of jazz, from classic swing to contemporary fusion, funk and pop. As well as being in demand for formals and parties, we put on our own events throughout the year, with a particular recent highlight being our sell-out event 'Clusterfunk' at Bristol Beacon hosted with the JazzFunkSoul Society.

The society also holds an annual summer tour which is always well received – with both bands performing to large crowds in beautiful locations across Europe.

Visit our Welcome Fair stand to sign up for auditions which happen at the start of the year! We have free membership available through the SU website.

Find us at: [f HornstarsandBUJO](#) | [@bristolbigbandsoc](#)

OUR GROUPS:

THE BRISTOL HORNSTARS

🕒 Rehearsals: Fridays 17.30-19.30, Students' Union

The Bristol Hornstars are Big Band Soc's auditioned band, and are renowned as one of Bristol's premier jazz ensembles! The Hornstars bring a dazzling mix of jazz, funk, latin and modern classics to local venues. Conducted this year by Izzy Mastriforte, be sure to audition for some of the finest jazz the city has to offer.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA / BUJO

🕒 Rehearsals: Fridays 17.30-19.30, Students' Union

The Bristol University Jazz Orchestra are Big Band Soc's un-auditioned band (except for vocals and rhythm), giving everyone an opportunity to be a part of an accomplished and vibrant jazz ensemble. Performing at events across the city, the inimitable BUJO is conducted this year by Oli Manley. Be sure to come along for lively rehearsals with midpoint pints and unforgettable gigs!

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL A CAPPELLA SOCIETY

A Cappella Society was voted as the Best Society 2017 and 2018, as well as being shortlisted for Best Society Event last year. We specialise in modern A cappella (think Pitch Perfect)! We've got a really exciting year planned with concerts, socials, and opportunities for all abilities so find us at freshers fair. Check out what we are up to on Instagram [@uobacappella](#) or find us on facebook [@UoBACappella](#) for more information. We audition for some groups so come along and speak to us at freshers fair for more info!

OUR GROUPS:

THE BRISTONES (no audition)

The Bristones is the mixed un auditioned group of the University of Bristol A Cappella Society, which provides everyone with the chance to sing a cappella. With one rehearsal each week, the group allows people of all abilities and experiences to release their inner Pitch Perfect, singing a variety of music! We perform several concerts throughout the year, including Best Of the South West, where we join other talented groups in one big showcase! This is an extremely fun and sociable group, where everyone is welcome, and the ability to read music is not required.

THE TONE RANGERS (no audition)

The Tone Rangers is the un auditioned group for Lower Voice parts; anyone who can hit those low notes is welcome to join in our group!

* We have had exciting repertoire, including Panic! at the Disco, Arctic Monkeys, Michael Bublé and even metal!

* We run fun and relaxed rehearsals weekly, working towards performing at Best of the South West (BOSW) and other concerts!

TOP NOTE (no audition)

Top Note is an un auditioned group for the upper voice parts; we welcome everyone who can sing Sopranos and Alto parts – if you can hit those top notes then come along!

* We sing anything and everything as long as it's upbeat from Rihanna to musicals! Our MD team is bringing new energy to Top Note this year with a chill yet exciting energy.

* No previous experience is required and you do not need to be able to read music as teach tracks are provided and other people are always around to help.

* We are the first un auditioned UoB group to release a video – check it out on our youtube!

ALL SHARPS (auditioned)

All Sharps is a non-competitive A cappella group at the University of Bristol (previously called HotTUBBS) singing a wide variety of music ranging from close-harmony and barbershop to collegiate A cappella. We're made up of members who want a more challenging yet rewarding experience.

* In previous years we've been national finalists at VoiceFest, runners-up at the Manchester Amateur Choral Competition and winners in two categories at the Mid Somerset Festival.

* We were semi-finalists at the Voice Festival 2015, showcasing a different style of A cappella to resounding success.

* We have released our debut EP, Caught Up in a Dream which is on all streaming services!

We are a non-competitive group, meaning that we don't enter competitions such as the ICCAs. As a result, we only have one 2-hour rehearsal a week.

PITCH FIGHT (auditioned)

Pitch Fight is Bristol's auditioned female and non-binary identifying A cappella group. We perform collegiate A cappella versions of anything from Macklemore to Katy Perry. We're looking for strong singers or beatboxers who like to sing, dance and love to perform so come along and audition.

We rehearse for 5 hours a week but the group tend to spend a lot more time together just socialising in and out of the society, so be prepared for your world to turn into a real-life version of Pitch Perfect. We are super excited to continue doing what we love next year: we performed at BOSW, Clicendales, Constitution Ball, LUKAS, Vocal Jam, Edinburgh Fringe and we compete in the ICCAs every year!

THE BRISTOL SUSPENSIONS (auditioned)

The Bristol Suspensions is a mixed A cappella group that specialises in modern music. Now entering our 10th year of existence, we have become a hit with audiences across the country, and are known for our unique arrangements, stunning vocals, and high-energy performances, as well as our warm presence within the A cappella community. We sing a variety of music, from pop to jazz to techno – you name it, we've sung it! We were champions of the UK ICCAs in 2021, have performed at Edinburgh Fringe every year, released an award winning EP called Red Hot (available on all major streaming platforms).

We are looking for beatboxers and singers of all parts to join us for another exciting year! We welcome auditions from anyone who's interested, no matter your level of experience. You do not need to be able to read music.

ACADEMY (auditioned)

Academy is UoB's auditioned all male-aligning A cappella group. Known for our high-energy performances, we're a fun-loving group who do everything from competing at ICCAs to recording an international award-winning album!

This year we released an EP called Ad Astra, performed at BOSW, Lukas and Vocal Jam, went to Edinburgh Fringe and we compete at the ICCAs. Our debut EP, Exhibit A, won CARA awards too!

We're looking for strong singers of all voice parts, and are on the lookout for any keen beatboxers as well, so if that sounds like you then come along and audition! We rehearse twice a week and we don't require the ability to read sheet music, just a good dose of energy and a willingness to learn!

BRIZZLEBOX (auditioned)

Hey! We're Brizzlebox, the University of Bristol A Cappella Society's beatboxing group! Aside from showcasing our wacky arrangements and odd sounds in the various concerts held by the A Cappella Society throughout the year, we also run occasional beatbox workshops to enhance your skills and refine your techniques, hold beatbox battle tournaments, and perform various A Cappella performances.

If you can't help yourself making peculiar noises and would like to join, drop us a message or speak to one of our members. Don't hesitate to come along and show us your weirdest sounds and craziest beats. We highly encourage people of all skill-levels to sign-up!

UNIVERSITY MADRIGAL ENSEMBLE (auditioned)

CONDUCTOR: HARRY KIRBY

 **Rehearsals: Thursdays 19.00-21.00, Victoria Rooms**

BUME is a 16 strong choir of auditioned singers, who perform unaccompanied music from across the ages. The choir sings a wide range of repertoire from Renaissance madrigals and English part-songs to contemporary art song and jazz arrangements. Each year the choir goes on a tour to Cornwall at the end of the summer term to perform in a series of concerts at locations such as Truro Cathedral and St Endellion.

For any questions, contact Meg Rees, president at bristolume@gmail.com.

UNIVERSITY CHURCH CHOIR (no audition)

DIRECTOR: SUNNY LEE

 **Rehearsals: Fridays 17.30-19.00, St. Paul's Church**

The University Church Choir is a friendly, non-auditioned group based at

St. Paul's Church, Clifton (behind the Victoria Rooms). We sing a range of Anglican choral music to a high standard. We usually sing each week for the Sunday morning service, and Choral Evensong twice a term. Other highlights include our Advent/Christmas carol services, Choral Evensong at Bristol Cathedral, Allegri's Miserere on Ash Wednesday and a summer concert. Every summer we have a cathedral tour, spending a week singing the services in a UK Cathedral. We have a high turnover of music with an ever-expanding repertoire. We also regularly premiere new music by Bristol composers. We have an active social programme and are always ready to welcome new faces.

Find us at Welcome Fair or email uobchurchchoir@gmail.com

WILLS CHAPEL CHOIR (auditioned)

DIRECTOR: DAVID DEWAR

🕒 Rehearsals: Fridays 18.00 - 18.30PM Dame Monica Wills Chapel, BS9 1AE

The Chapel Choir is a friendly, auditioned group based at the Chapel of Wills Hall on the Downs, Clifton. It is the only collegiate style chapel establishment in the university. We usually sing each week for the Friday evening service, which is either Choral Evensong or Compline. Music is based on traditional church music from the 14th to the 21st centuries. Other highlights include Advent and Christmas carol services, Allegri's Miserere on Ash Wednesday, Remembrance Sunday, and sometimes a cathedral residency or a concert tour in the UK or Europe. Membership is free – just contact us: chapelchoir@prof.org.uk.

MUSIC THEATRE BRISTOL (MTB) (un-auditioned/auditioned)

🕒 Rehearsals: To be arranged

Music Theatre Bristol is one of the largest performing arts societies and provides numerous opportunities to get involved as a performer or as part of the band/orchestra. We have both auditioned and un-auditioned productions and initiatives, allowing anyone who loves musical theatre to build upon their performance skills, learn new songs and dances, and meet lots of people. MTB also hosts Musical Theatre workshops by industry professionals. So whether you're a singer, dancer, actor, you can play a musical instrument or you are completely new to musical theatre, there are opportunities to get involved in the society all year round. Find us at Welcome Fair or email president@musictheatrebristol.com.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY OPERATIC SOCIETY (BOpS)

PRESIDENT: WALTER HALL

BOpS is a fun and flourishing society dedicated to allowing students to discover and experience the world of opera. Regardless of previous experience, we offer opportunities to aspiring singers, instrumentalists, actors, dancers, costumiers, conductors, directors and producers. BOpS provides members the opportunity to perform and get involved with productions; every year, we produce a small-scale production in the first term, and a large-scale production in the Winston Theatre in the spring. In addition to these productions, BOpS puts on regular arias concerts, workshops and masterclasses throughout the year for members to learn new skills, meet new people and show off their talents!

(Vocal and instrumental auditions are separate for each production)

Find us at the Welcome Fair or email president.bops@gmail.com for more details!

SYMPHONIA

Bristol SU performing arts society of the year 2023!

PRESIDENT: NOAH CHANDLER

VICE-PRESIDENT: EMILY WHITEHALL

Bristol University Symphonia is a Gold Balloon accredited society who won Performing Arts Society of the Year in 2023! We have two student-run orchestras: Symphonia Symphony Orchestra, which is part-auditioned, and Symphonia Philharmonic, which is the only un-auditioned full orchestra at the University. Besides playing prestigious music, we have a jam-packed social calendar, and eat biscuits and cakes during rehearsal breaks! We offer a non-pressurised fun environment for music making and are accessible to all. We have a vibrant and social orchestral family, and we enjoy engaging with our local community, including through outreach events and sponsorships.

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@bristolsymphonia) to keep up to date and find us at the Welcome Fair or email bristolsymphonia@gmail.com for more information. Apply now for either/both orchestras: bit.ly/appllysymphonia.

SYMPHONIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MANAGER: ELLA KRONQVIST

CONDUCTOR: CALEB KERNAGHAN

Symphonia Symphony Orchestra is a part-auditioned group that plays a wide variety of advanced orchestral music including late 19th century gems and modern favourites from the world of film. Last year, this included Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Suite and Beethoven's 5th Symphony in C minor. The orchestra is a tight-knit family of musicians, and we encourage everyone to attend our regular fun socials, including post-rehearsal wind downs. We rehearse on Thursday evenings and perform at least three concerts per year. Our esteemed annual concerto and composition competitions also offer special opportunities for individual musicians to showcase their talent.

SYMPHONIA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

MANAGER: PETA WALL

CONDUCTOR: FELICITY LEWIS

Symphonia Philharmonic Orchestra is the University's only completely un-auditioned full orchestra. No matter what your instrumental proficiency is, we welcome you to perform orchestral favourites, in a relaxing, fun and easy-going environment. Our repertoire includes famous film and theatre pieces and well-known classics. Last year, this included Danny Elfman's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings and perform at least three concerts a year. In addition, we have many fun socials and often collaborate with other societies, allowing our members to meet new people and make friends while playing music. So for a relaxed opportunity to play music and make friends, we'd love to see you at Symphonia's Philharmonic Orchestra!

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@bristolsymphonia) to keep up to date and find us at the Welcome Fair or email bristolsymphonia@gmail.com for more information.

Apply now: bit.ly/appllysymphonia.

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Music Festival is an annual event that aims to showcase the University's musical talent in a series of free concerts. The event provides opportunities for everyone to get involved, from performers to composers, conductors, and those interested in events management.







AUDITIONS

/ SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

/ NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

/ CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

/ CHAMBER CHOIR

/ UNIVERSITY SINGERS

AT THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, VICTORIA ROOMS, QUEEN'S ROAD

One single audition covers Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and New Music Ensemble; likewise, the University Singers and Chamber Choir. All players and singers (including members of last year's ensembles) need to audition - nobody has an automatic right to a place in any ensemble. This is your **only chance to audition** for the present academic year – places are allocated in the first week. At your audition, you will be asked to perform a short piece of your own choosing and to take a sight-reading test. The piece should be chosen with a view to showing off both technical proficiency and tone quality.

Please note that these are classical music auditions – if you are more interested in popular repertoire, then groups such as A Cappella Society and Music Theatre Bristol will be suitable for you.

SIGN-UP SHEETS will be posted in the Victoria Rooms at the beginning of Welcome Week so you can sign up for an audition. You need to come to the Victoria Rooms in person to do this. You cannot sign up online. **If you turn up without having booked a time, you will not be able to audition.**

Information about these auditions and the ensembles are also on the department webpage:

www.bristol.ac.uk/music/performance/calling-all-musicians/auditions/

CONCERT & REHEARSAL SCHEDULES for the whole year will be available at the audition so you can see what membership of the various ensembles involves. **If you are offered and accept a place in any ensemble, it is expected that you will attend all rehearsals and concerts for the whole year.**

