

# ENSEMBLE HANDBOOK:

Together Festival 2019



# ABOUT FESTIVAL SINFONIA

## Ensemble Setup:

We are prepared to welcome the full range of orchestral instruments to join the Together Festival, including all saxophones, piano and all percussion players. If you are unsure whether your instrument would be suitable, please contact Music at Reading.

## Skill Set:

Typically, musicians in Festival Sinfonia are keen orchestral players, with experience of music reading and performing in an ensemble.

## Membership Commitment:

Festival Sinfonia members are expected to commit to all rehearsal and performances in the festival, to arrive punctually and prepared for the rehearsal with their sheet music. Where attendance drops below acceptable levels (normally 90%) members may be asked to leave the ensemble, and membership fees will not be refunded. Music at Reading will issue the schedule of rehearsals and performances for all Music at Reading Ensembles before the start of the academic year in order that members can plan ahead to accommodate their membership commitments with other activities.

Members should arrive punctually. Additional rehearsals will be held on performances dates, to allow for sound check and dress rehearsal at the venue.

## Leadership:

Members of Festival Sinfonia are encouraged to develop a reflective attitude towards their playing in order to understand their contribution to the ensemble. Throughout rehearsals and after performances, the Director will encourage members to reflect on their progress and their contribution to the group. Musicians will be given opportunities to be section leaders, and may also have solo opportunities depending on repertoire.

## Musical Leaders:

In the Spring term, Music at Reading invites members to apply for the Musical Leaders scheme. This is an enrichment programme for advanced performers keen to develop their skills in solo and ensemble performance, and ensemble directing. Musical Leaders are expected to be regular performing members of Music at Reading ensembles. They may choose to take additional leadership roles in their ensemble, such as sectional leader, soloist, and assistant conductor. In Festival Sinfonia, this could include warming up the ensemble, leading musicianship work, running sectional rehearsals, and directing the ensemble.

Musical leaders will model appropriate behaviours in terms of punctuality, attendance, self-organisation and personal preparation in rehearsals and performance. Being a Musical Leader can contribute towards the University RED awards.

## Part Allocation:

Each player is allocated a folder, which will contain a specific combination of parts, dependent on the orchestration of each piece. Players cannot physically change seats during the concert; therefore changing the allocation of parts for specific pieces is at the discretion of the director.

Parts are allocated by Music at Reading, using the following criteria:

- Number of players of each instrument
- Number of parts available for that instrument
- Request of player in application form
- Previous experience in Festival Sinfonia

Where possible, we keep track of the parts that players have been allocated to in previous festivals. We use this to ensure a level of progression or sharing of opportunities for all players.

The allocations will be emailed to players, and displayed on the Music at Reading notice board a week before the first rehearsal. Changes can only be made after this point if a swap has been agreed between two members of Festival Sinfonia, and Music at Reading have approved the change.

## PRACTICE ROOM ACCESS

Music practice rooms are available for all members of the local area, including students, staff, and community members, in Building L29, London Road campus.

- Eight general purpose practice rooms; suitable for up to 5 people; no booking required.
- All practice rooms have upright pianos, music stands, and mirrors
- Two studios for ensemble rehearsal; only bookable by staff and students of the University.
- Both studios have a grand piano (or two), music stands, and a drum kit.

The facility may be used for individual music practice and ensemble rehearsals, but is not available for private tuition or commercial activity.

### Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday, 08.30-21.30

Weekends, 08.00-20.00.

University Closure Dates: Closed.

### Access and Fees:

Practice Room Access is not included in Music at Reading membership. Access fees can be paid through our online store; these fees subsidise the cost of instrument repair, and upkeep, cleaning, and security of the building. Entry to Building L29 is controlled through your University of Reading campus card, or a guest access card.

## PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE:

The overall performance look for Music at Reading ensembles is black with red accents.

- Music at Reading t-shirt, [available to purchase from Music at Reading](#).
- All black lower half, including black socks or tights, and shoes (without patterns or logos), unless specified by Music at Reading.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION:

### Email:

Important information will be emailed out to all ensemble members. It is your responsibility to ensure that your email address is up to date, and to let us know of any changes through the website.

### Social Media:

Last minute information will be released on Facebook and Twitter; follow us and turn on notifications to stay up to date.

### Go to the website for information about:

#### Events:

Each event throughout the year is listed, with the ability to search by key words and dates, download directly into your calendar, and display as a list or in calendar format.

#### Blog:

Follow our blog for behind the scenes peek at Music at Reading. Throughout the year we'll have guest blogs from our members and Musical Leaders, plus tips and advice to combat auditions, performance anxiety, and so much more.

#### Gallery:

Find professional photographs from our recent events.

#### Member Zone:

All information specific to membership of Music at Reading ensembles will be uploaded to the Member Zone of our website, found by hovering over the Home button in the menu: <http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/music/member-zone/>

Please use the online links in the member zone to report absences, update your contact information, check *Notices*, and download information, including performer briefings for specific events, rehearsal schedules, and ensemble handbooks.

See the *How To* guides if you are unsure how to use any aspect of the website.

## SCHEDULE:

Date	Time	Location	Detailed Plan	
			*subject to change	
Friday 15 November	18:00-21:00	Building L29	18:00-19:15	Tutti rehearsal
			19:30-21:00	Sectional rehearsals
Saturday 16 November	10:00-18:00	Building L29	10:00-11:15	Tutti rehearsal
			11:45-13:00	Sectional rehearsals
			14:00-15:15	Sectional rehearsals
			15:45-18:00	Tutti rehearsal
Friday 22 November	18:00-21:00	Building L29	18:00-19:15	Tutti rehearsal
			19:30-21:00	Sectional rehearsals
Saturday 23 November	12:00-15:00	3sixty, RUSU, Whiteknights Campus	12:00-15:00	Dress Rehearsal
			17:00-18:00	Performance

Doors to Building L29 will open fifteen minutes before each rehearsal.

## REPERTOIRE:

Title	Composer	Ensemble
William Tell Overture	W. Rossini	Festival Sinfonia
Grand March, from Aida	G. Verdi	Festival Sinfonia
Trumpet Tune	Jeremiah Clarke	Festival Strings
The Queen of the Night Aria	W.A. Mozart	Festival Winds
633 Squadron	Ron Goodwin	Festival Winds
Batman Begins	Hans Zimmer	Festival Winds
The Avengers	Alan Silverstri	Festival Strings
Theme from Schindlers List	John Williams	Festival Winds
Superman Returns	John Williams & John Ottman	Festival Sinfonia