



City of Birmingham  
Symphony Orchestra

# CBSO SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

A summary of the performances, creative workshops and opportunities we offer schools across Birmingham and the West Midlands



[CBSO.CO.UK/EDUCATION](https://www.cbsoco.uk/education)

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**“Everything the CBSO do is amazing! I love how they bring the music curriculum to life, with passion and their expertise. The cross-curricular links are wonderful too. It is excellent and motivating for pupils. We will always keep coming back!”**

– Deputy Head Teacher of a Birmingham-based Primary School, 2022



# OVERVIEW

**The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is committed to supporting and developing the musical education of children and young people, building their skills as creators and performers, expanding their musical interests and experiences, and inspiring a lifelong appreciation of live performance.**

We deliver over 300 creative workshops and performances every year in schools in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands. In addition, we give annual Key Stage concerts at Symphony Hall and Relaxed concerts for Special School pupils at the fully accessible CBSO Centre.

The CBSO also provides heavily subsidised tickets for schools to all our main season Birmingham concerts - so why not bring a group of students to experience a concert: with repertoire ranging from Harry Potter to Beethoven, and from orchestral rock to qawwali, there really is something for every musical taste and interest.

Summaries of our offers are included in this pack, and more information can be found online at [cbso.co.uk/education](https://www.cbso.co.uk/education).

If you would like more information about any of our projects or would like to discuss a specific programme of activity, please contact [education@cbso.co.uk](mailto:education@cbso.co.uk) or call **0121 616 6500** to talk to a member of our Learning & Engagement team.







IN-SCHOOL VISITS FOR PRIMARY PUPILS

# KS1 HYBRID CONCERT: DINOSAUR DISCO

Stomposaurus, Crashosaurus-Bang and friends invite you to join them on their exciting Jurassic adventure alongside musicians from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Our sought-after Key Stage 1 hybrid concert provides pupils with the opportunity to watch a world-class ensemble performance in your school through interactive film and live presentation by a member of the CBSO.

Discover our friendly dinosaurs who will introduce children to the building blocks of music in an interactive exploration of symphonic repertoire, including works by Stravinsky, Elgar and Tchaikovsky.

**The cost of a booking is £150 and includes the following:**

- Half day - up to 2 performances of 50-minutes each
- Live performance and presentation in school by one CBSO musician
- Participatory activities
- Q&A opportunities

Designed to capture little imaginations, our Key Stage 1 hybrid concert aims to explore the themes of rhythm, timbre, pitch, dynamics, texture and tempo while providing unforgettable fun and inspiring musicians and audiences of the future. Please note that there is no limit to the number of participants in a hybrid session and student numbers are dependent upon your school hall capacity.

To book your visit or for further information please contact **Carolyn Burton, CBSO Assistant Learning and Engagement Manager**, at [cburton@cbsoc.org.uk](mailto:cburton@cbsoc.org.uk) or **0121 616 6522**.



IN-SCHOOL VISITS FOR PRIMARY PUPILS

# KS2 HYBRID CONCERT: CBSO ESCAPE ROOM

Our popular Key Stage 2 hybrid concert provides pupils with the opportunity to watch world-class ensemble performances in your school through an interactive film and live presentation.

KABOOM! Oh no! Our orchestra has exploded, and our poor musicians are scattered behind 4 locked doors...

Join our CBSO musician as they accompany our KS2 film through a series of musical escape room challenges. Each activity is designed around the curriculum to help build an understanding of the six interrelated dimensions of music: Metre, Harmony, Melody, Dynamics, Articulation and Ostinato.

**The cost of a booking is £150 and includes the following:**

- Half day - up to 2 performances of 50-minutes each
- Live performance and presentation in school by one CBSO musician
- Participatory activities
- Q&A opportunities

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IN-SCHOOL VISITS FOR PRIMARY PUPILS

# KS2 WORKSHOP: THE FIREBIRD

This project provides pupils with an opportunity to explore the magical world of The Firebird – a traditional Russian story that influenced Stravinsky’s famous ballet.

The Firebird provides pupils with access to high-quality performances by members of the CBSO in addition to the creative workshop element of the project. CBSO violinists Charlotte Skinner and Bryony Morrison will work alongside pupils to develop an original creative work inspired by the Infernal Dance, utilising instruments that pupils are already learning, and/or tuned and un-tuned percussion available in your school.

### Throughout each workshop pupils will:

- Engage with a lively interactive performance
- Participate in creative music sessions - including composition and song-writing activities
- Share their creative work with the rest of the group or wider school

This interactive workshop runs over a morning or afternoon and can accommodate up to 30 Key Stage 2 pupils. The cost of a Firebird workshop is £300.

To book your visit or for further information please contact **Carolyn Burton, CBSO Assistant Learning and Engagement Manager**, at [cburton@cbsco.co.uk](mailto:cburton@cbsco.co.uk) or **0121 616 6522**.



IN-SCHOOL VISITS FOR PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND  
SPECIAL SCHOOL PUPILS

# SMALL ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES

Schools don't have to wait until our annual Schools Concerts; you can also have a performance in school from one of our brilliant small ensembles. These concerts can be accessed by a specific year group or by the whole school and provide a fabulous introduction to live performance by some of the world's best musicians. Performances last for approximately 1 hour for the whole school (or we can provide 2 x 45-minute performances for different Key Stage groups).

Performances include a mixture of classical repertoire along with more familiar pieces from film and TV. As well as introducing students to the individual instruments, musicians will provide background information about pieces and composers, and offer an interactive and participatory experience.

**We currently have the following ensembles available for school visits:**

- String / Wind / Brass Trio - £450\*
- The Symphonic Six (mixed 6-piece ensemble) - £900\*
- Kaleidoscope (mixed 7-piece ensembles) - £1050\*

\*Please note that schools outside Birmingham will incur additional travel fees, calculated by the mileage from CBSO Centre.

To book your visit or for further information please contact **Carolyn Burton, CBSO Assistant Learning and Engagement Manager**, at [cburton@cbsco.co.uk](mailto:cburton@cbsco.co.uk) or **0121 616 6522**.





# ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & BESPOKE PROJECTS

In addition to our activity packages, the CBSO also runs larger programmes linked to specific pieces of music or themes within our main concert season. Many of these programmes run across an academic year with multiple visits from CBSO musicians and associate artists - for example, writers and composers - leading to a final performance or sharing event at CBSO Centre or Symphony Hall.

The full cost of these projects is regularly in excess of £10,000, but through CBSO fundraising we are able to provide opportunities to schools at a heavily subsidised cost (with schools usually being asked to contribute in the region of £500 to each project).

If you are interested in being invited to take part in one of these larger programmes of activity, please register your interest by emailing [education@cbsoco.uk](mailto:education@cbsoco.uk) and we will contact you as soon as an opportunity becomes available.

**To find out more about our past long-term programmes, take a look at the following videos:**

- Myths & Legends (Annual programme) - [Watch here](#)
- Share the Dream (4-year programme) - [Watch here](#)



## SCHOOL TRIPS TO THE CBSO

# NURSERY & RECEPTION: NOTELETS

At the CBSO we are committed to providing opportunities for all young people in Birmingham and the West Midlands to experience live performances of exceptional quality.

The CBSO's special concerts for the under 5's – Notelets – take place three times a year at the CBSO Centre in central Birmingham. Since 2014, we have offered performances on a Friday as well as a Saturday to enable Early Years Settings and Reception classes to attend.

Each concert is based around a theme and features a different CBSO ensemble. Introduced by a lively presenter, audience participation is encouraged, and there are opportunities to meet the musicians (and their instruments) at the end of each concert.

Each Notelets performance includes the reading of a storybook accompanied by music that will both delight and inspire little minds.

Notelets concerts sell out very quickly, so for more information about forthcoming concerts and booking details please visit [cbsoco.uk/notelets](https://cbsoco.uk/notelets).

Free craft activities are available for an hour before each concert. Please let us know if you are bringing a class group so that we can set up crafts for you.

For further information, please contact **Helen Poulter, CBSO Learning & Engagement Officer**, at [hpoulter@cbsoco.uk](mailto:hpoulter@cbsoco.uk) or **0121 616 6546**.





## SCHOOL TRIPS TO THE CBSO

# SPECIAL SCHOOLS PUPILS: RELAXED CONCERTS

The CBSO holds four relaxed concerts every year to enable pupils attending Special Schools to experience live music in a supported, accessible and engaging environment.

These concerts feature a 10-piece mini-orchestra of CBSO musicians and a presenter, alongside a BSL interpreter, who take the audience through an exciting musical narrative combining storytelling, music, and audience participation.

All performances take place at the CBSO Centre, a fully accessible venue, and are delivered in partnership with Services for Education and the Birmingham Music Education Hub.

Concerts take place in the spring term each year, so keep an eye on our website [cbsoco.uk/relaxed-concerts](https://www.cbsoco.uk/relaxed-concerts) for further information.





## SCHOOL TRIPS TO THE CBSO

# KS1, KS2 AND KS3: SCHOOLS CONCERTS

### KEY STAGE 1

Join us for our annual Key Stage 1 concerts at the CBSO Centre! These one-hour concerts provide pupils with an educational and entertaining guide to orchestral music.

### KEY STAGE 2

We would love to invite your Key Stage 2 pupils to the CBSO's Key Stage 2 concerts! Held at Symphony Hall with the full orchestra, these one-hour concerts provide pupils with an educational and entertaining introduction to orchestral music.

### KEY STAGE 3

With support from Services for Education and the Birmingham Music Education Hub, the CBSO holds four concerts every year for Key Stage 3 audiences. These one-hour concerts are devised and delivered by an experienced amateur specifically for Key Stage 3 children and young people, and take place at Symphony Hall with the full orchestra. These concerts also support a different theme each year, ensuring that we are providing audiences with a diverse programme of music that is both engaging and educational.

**All of our School Concerts take place in the spring term, so keep an eye on our website for further information about our next concerts and how you can book your subsidised tickets: [cbsoco.uk/schools-concerts](https://cbsoco.uk/schools-concerts).**





## YOUTH ENSEMBLES AT THE CBSO

# PROJECT REMIX

The CBSO's free, non-auditioned training orchestra for secondary school pupils Grade 5 and above, meets during the spring term every year, with participants performing specially arranged rock and pop classics.

Participants are coached by CBSO players and play alongside them - offering a fantastic opportunity to improve playing and ensemble skills.

For further information, please contact **Helen Poulter, CBSO Learning & Engagement Officer**, at [hpoulter@cbsoco.uk](mailto:hpoulter@cbsoco.uk) or **0121 616 6546**.

# YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The CBSO Youth Orchestra meets three times per year and is an exceptional auditioned ensemble performing major orchestral repertoire often for forces of over 100 musicians, with internationally renowned conductors and soloists, and coached by CBSO musicians.

For further information please contact **Eben Gutteridge, CBSO Learning & Engagement Officer**, at [egutteridge@cbsoco.uk](mailto:egutteridge@cbsoco.uk) or **0121 616 6530**.





# ARTS AWARD

The CBSO's extensive Learning & Engagement programme, and associated concerts, provide children and young people with a range of opportunities to perform, experience and create live music, both in and out of the school environment.

As an Arts Award Supporter and Arts Award Centre, the CBSO's activities can contribute to a young person's achievement of an Arts Award. In addition, many of our schools' projects will enable participants to achieve their Discover or Explore Award through their involvement with the activities being offered.

The CBSO can offer Arts Award at Discover or Explore level free of charge for school groups who are involved in our longer-term projects, or who undertake multiple engagements with the CBSO each year - for example attending a Schools Concert, participating in a one-off creative workshop, undertaking independent research into the CBSO and our activities, and utilising the CBSO's specially designed logbook to record and share individual achievements.

For further information and to get involved, please contact **Carolyn Burton, CBSO Assistant Learning and Engagement Manager**, at [cburton@cbsoc.co.uk](mailto:cburton@cbsoc.co.uk) or **0121 616 6522**.