

PDMC Beginner Strings Workshop The Octagon, Buxton, Friday 4 April 2025

Peak District Music Centres would like to invite you to take part in a workshop for beginner level violin, cello and double bass players at The Octagon, Buxton on the afternoon of Friday 4 April 2025. The workshop will be led by our team of experienced ensemble directors and tutors supported by some of our accomplished young musicians. There will be no charge for participating schools.

Participants will take part in fun musical activities and rehearse some music supported by some of our senior players (including members of our exciting new electric strings group). There will also be an opportunity to listen to a short performance from our senior string orchestra players. The afternoon will finish with a 'mini-concert' for parents and carers. This will be a great opportunity for young musicians to experience playing together as part of a larger orchestra and to meet our orchestra directors and student ambassadors.

We would also like to work with participating schools to encourage pupils to continue their music making, including offering participants special offers for membership of our beginner strings ensembles.

If your school would like to take part, please complete the short sign-up form at <https://forms.gle/rxzpsunEqZSxMGD26> by Monday 17 February. You can also find more information, including a copy of this letter and the link to the sign up form, on our Strings Workshop webpage www.pdmc.org.uk/strings2025 This page will be kept updated with the latest news and the link can be shared with others in your team.

Key information about the workshop

Which pupils can participate? Schools are welcome to bring any pupils currently learning to play violin, cello or double bass at beginner level to approx. grade 2 (including pupils participating in Classroom Instrumental Learning projects ('CIL' previously referred to as Wider Opportunities). The workshop will not be suitable for pupils who have not yet started to learn to play or pupils playing other instruments.

Who should accompany pupils? Schools will be responsible for supervising their pupils throughout and are welcome to bring any staff or volunteers that they need to do this. CIL groups would ideally be accompanied by their CIL deliverer or MSP but this is not compulsory. We are able to pay CIL deliverers a small attendance fee by prior arrangement.

Instruments- Pupils will each need to have their own instrument to bring to the workshop. If this is a problem please contact us as soon as possible as we may be able to find a way to help.

Preparation ahead of the workshop- To help pupils get the most out of the workshop we would like them to practice their parts for 2 pieces in advance. We will provide parts for open strings, first notes and grade 1 standard so that pupils and their teachers can decide which is right for them. We don't expect anyone to be perfect but it will really help if pupils have had a go at playing before the day.

Transport- We are not able to provide transport to and from this event but there is parking at the venue for any schools who wish to bring a mini-bus or arrange their own coach. If pupils are being collected from the Octagon by parents at the end of the workshop can schools please ensure that there is a member of staff on site to supervise pupils until they are all collected.

Workshop times- School groups should arrive at the Octagon between 1.10pm and 1.20pm, ready to start the workshop at 1.30pm prompt. The workshop will finish at 3pm.

Mini-performance- The afternoon will finish with a short 'mini-performance' where parents/carers will be invited to come along and listen to the music from 2.50pm-3.00pm. There will be no charge for parents attending this session and no tickets needed but we will need to limit places to 2 per pupil (not including younger siblings that parents may need to bring). We will send full details of arrangements to participating schools.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact our administrator, Marion Redman at admin@pdmc.org.uk or 07798 714825.

Yours faithfully

Marion Redman
PDMC Administrator

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