

# AYM

INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION

Aldeburgh Young Musicians brings together like-minded young musicians to rehearse, perform and exchange creative ideas. If you are exceptionally talented, aged 8–18 years and have the potential to be the best, our distinctive programme is the perfect springboard to take your music to a new level.

Aldeburgh Young Musicians create their own programme, which coordinates individual lessons, intensive weekends and residential courses, expert professional advice, mentoring, performance opportunities and much more – everything you'd expect from Aldeburgh Music, the world-class organisation behind AYM, and a national network of Centres for Advanced Training.

Aldeburgh Young Musicians is shaping the musicians of tomorrow – helping young musicians push the boundaries of what they can achieve. It doesn't matter what type of music or instrument you play – if you have passion and if music is your life, then join Aldeburgh Young Musicians and be the best!

For further information, including financial support that brings the best within everyone's reach, visit [www.aldeburgh.co.uk/aym](http://www.aldeburgh.co.uk/aym)

**ANNUAL CLOSING DATE FOR NEW AYM APPLICATIONS: 10 FEBRUARY**



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## What is Aldeburgh Young Musicians?

Aldeburgh Young Musicians (AYM) is a distinctive Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) designed to realise the artistic potential of exceptionally talented young musicians (8–18 years) across a wide range of music.

AYM is an integral part of Aldeburgh Music's world-class artist development and performance programme. Aldeburgh is a place where artists at all stages of their career can be inspired and energised. With inspirational scenery, a rich musical heritage and the time and space for musicians to discover, create and explore, it is a unique place for young musicians to reach their full potential and define their own musical landscape. Our students are emerging as the kind of versatile musician that today's rapidly changing profession demands.

## Why should I join AYM?

AYM has developed a distinct, creative musical ethos, rapidly gaining a national reputation for pushing the boundaries of what young musicians can achieve.

Each of the young musicians has a tailored, Individual Learning Programme. Whilst working as a group, however, the teaching is collaborative and encourages a creative exchange of ideas. Our young musicians join forces with professionals, working together as equals, rather than in a more traditional teacher/student setting. AYM is less about traditional teaching methods and more about encouragement to question and experiment, using your talents to explore new ways of working, including creating new music and in different styles and genres.

*“I’m so glad to have been a part of this... It was a wonderful experience to be able work with such a band of enthusiasts, and I was hugely impressed with every aspect of it!”*

Colin Matthews – Composer

*“...I remain astounded by the fact that AYM can offer such world-class opportunities to young people like me and everyone involved. Thank you for the all the nurturing, patience and opportunity, which I feel has brought me a long way thus far and I hope can keep doing so in future!”*

Luke Fitzgerald, AYM – Composer

*“I’ve had a truly amazing and inspiring week. Being an Aldeburgh Young Musician and learning about music in this way makes being a musician feel like the best thing in the world!!”*

Sam Wilson, AYM Alumni – Percussion

## Who can join AYM?

Anyone aged 8 to 16 can join who can demonstrate exceptional musical talent or potential to be the best, irrespective of means, social or ethnic background. Once you have joined, we expect you to stay until you are aged 18.

AYM caters for any type of instrument and musical interest. We have orchestral musicians, composers, pianists, rock guitarists, jazz instrumentalists, orchestral percussionists and kit players – even a guzheng (a Chinese harp)!

## Will I have to change my music teacher or stop doing my other musical activities?

AYM is designed to oversee your whole musical development, but it is not a replacement for what you already do. AYM is keen to work with your teacher as part of our partnership with you. Together with your teacher and our other partners, AYM can advise you about your musical development and will only offer opportunities and experiences you can’t get elsewhere. You do not need to change your teacher or stop your current activity.

## What is the AYM Partnership?

A distinctive feature of Aldeburgh Young Musicians is the way it works in partnership with the leading music education and performance organisations in the eastern region (including county music service provision), together with specialists Pro Corda, the Junior Guildhall School of Music & Drama and Britten Sinfonia Academy. The partnership provides a structure to deliver a broad programme of excellent vocational training throughout the region.

## Are there performance opportunities?

Our musicians love to perform! All of our longer courses end with an ‘in house’ Open Session; a performance open to the public. Further afield, recent performances have also included: The Royal Festival Hall and Clore Ballroom (Southbank Centre), EFG London Jazz Festival, the Pumphouse (Aldeburgh Festival), The Moller Centre & West Road Concert Hall (Cambridge), the Snape Proms (Snape Maltings Concert Hall), Spirit Level (Southbank Centre), Latitude Festival and Spitalfields Festival.

## Fees and Funding – Do you charge fees?

We do charge fees, but our aim is to accommodate all young musicians of exceptional talent, *regardless* of their ability to pay.

Aldeburgh Young Musicians provides access to the Department for Education’s (DfE) Music & Dance Scheme *National Grants* for suitably qualified individuals.

We can also advise about other funding sources. Please contact the Head of Aldeburgh Young Musicians to discuss bursaries and fees.

## What if I’m not quite ready for AYM?

The AYM Apprentice scheme provides an opportunity to develop a relationship with Aldeburgh if you are not quite ready for the full scheme. You will be advised whether this may be a more appropriate path for you at audition. The Apprentices have six of their own tailored ‘taster’ days, as well as joining a full course and additional activities where appropriate.

## When can I audition?

The main audition period is in March each year. In exceptional circumstances, applications will be considered throughout the year.

AYM is the result of a unique partnership between the leading music education and performance organisations in the Eastern region, together with specialists Pro Corda, the Junior Guildhall School of Music & Drama (London) and Britten Sinfonia Academy.

*“AYM has been an absolute inspiration and it is a real pleasure to have this opportunity to work with them!”*

Tim Steiner – Composer

*“I just wanted to say another huge thanks for letting me in 3 years ago, AYM really has changed my life in more ways than making me a better oboist and last week’s course was very poignant in highlighting the way music education can change lives”*

Charlotte Evans, AYM Alumni – Oboe

*“ ... The only problem with AYM is that I never want to leave!”*

Alex Woolf, AYM Alumni – Composer

*“It really is a total privilege to work with AYM – not only because they are such inspiring, talented and enthusiastic young musicians, but also because the whole program and ethos behind it is wonderfully run, with such passion and focus.”*

Charlotte Bray – Composer

## Other advanced music opportunities in the East of England: AYM and Britten Sinfonia Academy

**I’m also interested in Britten Sinfonia Academy – what’s your advice?**

It may be appropriate for you to become a member of both groups, or for one organisation to direct you to the other. Our two organisations are in close communication and are equally committed to ensuring that young musicians from the East of England are able to access advanced, high quality musical opportunities. The two schemes complement each other very well and where appropriate, we will recommend young musicians to apply for Britten Sinfonia Academy and vice versa. We are keen to help young musicians discover the most appropriate opportunities for themselves as individuals. We also hope to work together and share opportunities in the future.

**What are the main differences between Aldeburgh Young Musicians and Britten Sinfonia Academy?**

Aldeburgh Young Musicians is part of a national network of Centres for Advanced Training (CAT), endorsed by the Department for Education (DfE). Our distinctive scheme is intended to develop and nurture young musicians of exceptional potential through continued development, rather than to provide one-off ‘holiday’ courses. For those who choose, AYM is providing a completely balanced and personalised music programme which coordinates individual lessons, intensive residential courses at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Suffolk, mentoring and performance opportunities. Our programme takes into account an individual’s contribution towards county or national ensembles and orchestras, too, and so complements the programme offered through Britten Sinfonia Academy. AYM is designed to provide students with a broad musical experience which will help them develop into an exciting, creative young musician.

Britten Sinfonia Academy (BSA) is a year-long programme. They are a flexible and open-minded group of musicians, but rooted in classical chamber orchestra tradition. BSA particularly caters for classically trained young musicians, but as with AYM, they have a passion to learn and explore.

Britten Sinfonia Academy will help to develop the young musicians’ skills as chamber musicians, leaders and team players. Whilst there is exploration of approaches to improvisation, creative composition and collaborative work, the main foundation of the BSA courses will be working as a chamber orchestra.

For further information and to apply: visit [www.aldeburgh.co.uk/aym](http://www.aldeburgh.co.uk/aym) or contact: Colin Virr, Head of AYM  
T: 01728 687115 or E: [cvirr@aldeburgh.co.uk](mailto:cvirr@aldeburgh.co.uk) or find us on Facebook and Twitter (@AYM\_Snape)

## Auditions

Main audition period:  
March each year. In  
exceptional circumstances,  
applications will be  
considered throughout  
the year.

## For further information and to apply

Visit our website:

[www.aldeburgh.co.uk/aym](http://www.aldeburgh.co.uk/aym)

Contact Colin Virr, Head of  
Aldeburgh Young Musicians:

T: 01728 687115

E: [cvirr@aldeburgh.co.uk](mailto:cvirr@aldeburgh.co.uk)

Follow us on Twitter:

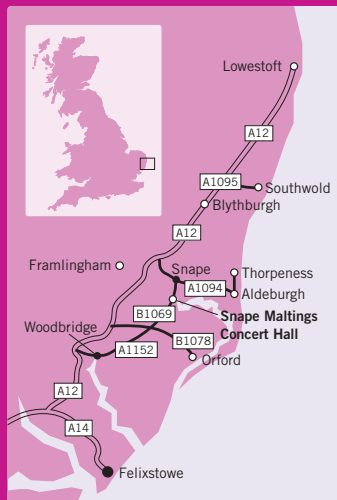
@AYM\_Snape

Like us on Facebook:

Aldeburgh Young Musicians

## Where we are

Aldeburgh Music  
Snape Maltings Concert Hall  
Snape  
Suffolk IP17 1SP  
England



AYM is the result of a unique  
partnership between the  
leading music education and  
performance organisations in  
the Eastern region, together  
with specialists Pro Corda, the  
Junior Guildhall School of Music  
& Drama (London) and Britten  
Sinfonia Academy.



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
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