

# THE SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

(Registered Charity No 282751, SC038422)

President: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies CBE

## AWARD APPLICATION FORM

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Organisation's name: **National Youth Recorder Orchestras (NYRO) GB**: Registered CIO No. 1153705

The **National Youth Recorder Orchestras (NYRO) GB** is an organisation dedicated to young people between the ages of 10 and 25 and exists to support, develop and nurture their recorder playing and give them opportunities to perform. As well as supporting their musical ambitions, NYRO gives them the chance to meet other young people, have new experiences and broaden their horizons. NYRO is unique in that it is the only *national* youth recorder orchestra in the world.

NYRO was launched by the *Society of Recorder Players (SRP)* in 2002 with the help of a legacy left to the Society by Arthur Ingram, a former treasurer. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 NYRO separated and become a charity in its own right owing to the need for youth-specific provision.

NYRO's principal objectives are to:

- **Be an advocate** for high quality recorder playing and for the recorder orchestra model
- **Bring together** like-minded young people to develop their recorder playing to a high level and to benefit from top professional tutors and conductors
- **Give young people the opportunity** to make friends from all social backgrounds who share their interests and experience the satisfaction of working together
- **Stimulate interest** in the recorder and promote it as an instrument for life, encouraging participation in an absorbing and life-enhancing hobby.

For 2020-21, we would like to apply for £5,000.

NYRO is extremely fortunate in having received the following funds from the SRP:

- Start-up grant in 2001-2 £12,000
- Administrator's fee from 2004 to 2014 £6,000 - £6,600 p.a.
- Instrument purchase in 2008 £5,000
- Instrument purchase in 2010 £1,000
- Instrument purchase in 2011 £800
- Website funding in 2011 £4,850
- Additional funding in 2011-12 and 2012-13 £4,000 and £3,000
- Grant 2014-15 £5,000
- Grant 2015-16 £4,000
- Grant 2016-17 £4,000 + £1,000 matched funding
- Grant 2017-18 £2,000 + £2,000 matched funding
- Grant 2018-19 £1,000 + £2,000 matched funding

- Grant 2019-20

£1,000 + £1,000 matched funding

## **Purpose for the Award**

### **National Youth Recorder Orchestras – Nurturing Talent and Unlocking Potential**

Beginning with just a single residential summer course in 2001, NYRO's activities and scope have increased and now include up to eight Recorder Days held around the country and a second residential course held at Easter. The Summer Course remains the pinnacle of the orchestra's annual events and showcases British youth recorder playing at its finest through the medium of the recorder orchestra. The extent of NYRO's annual programme and the responsibility inherent in working with children and young people necessitates the need for a paid part-time administrator, who is supported by a Board of Trustees, a Musical Director, volunteer house-staff and freelance professional recorder players who tutor and conduct on our courses.

NYRO relies greatly on goodwill and aims to keep its costs to an absolute minimum in order to be able to provide its players with excellent courses at an affordable cost. It does not aim to make a profit in any year but does aim to keep sufficient reserves to be able to sustain at least one poor year in terms of income without having to curtail its activities. However, those reserves have been consistently eroded over the last few years as grant income has dwindled.

NYRO's work is vital to the recorder-playing community, as it provides talented young recorder players with access to professional tutors and an opportunity to meet other like-minded players - many talented young players find themselves the only player of their standard in their school or area. We know that in the 5-14 years age bracket, numbers learning the recorder have declined in relation to other instruments:

*“despite its abundant use by classroom music teachers, the number of children playing the recorder has not increased to the same extent as other instruments”*

and that opportunities for clear progression routes such as NYRO provides are critical to supporting young players in their development:

*“uneven regional provision is an important factor in progression, as learners' decisions may be influenced not by preference but by availability.” (Source – ABRSM Making Music Report 2014)*

The music education landscape and its funding have changed hugely since 2001; however, NYRO endeavours, through its courses and recorder days, to continue to encourage and inspire young players whilst keeping costs as low as possible so that they are still accessible, particularly for those on a low income. If NYRO were to pass on all its costs to the players, the increase in fees would make courses and playing days inaccessible to all but the most affluent students.

NYRO believes passionately in its programme of recorder days around the country, which provides a great opportunity for young players to come together and find out what it is like to play in small and larger groups with players of their own age. We know that these events can be inspirational, as witness this quote from a parent:

*"I just wanted to say thank you for today. Saul really enjoyed it. He had such a good time today that he asked me to sign him up for the Easter residential which I have just done!"*

There is strong evidence that NYRO has been highly influential in the education and development of many young recorder players. Several have gone on to study recorder at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and others at one of the music colleges in London, having gained the confidence and the inspiration through NYRO to continue with their studies at the highest level. Of the students who have passed through the departments of the UK's academies, colleges, universities and conservatoires, several have come back to NYRO as volunteers and one is now Chair of the Trustees.

The following was submitted by an ex-NYRO student in 2011-12 and we believe that these words still hold true today:

*"When I first went to the NYRO Summer course in 2002 as a 12-year-old, the orchestra was in its second year. Meeting and playing with such a large group of young recorder players was a brilliant experience. I enjoyed my time at NYRO so much that I have now been to 8 Summer Courses, as well as the International Convention of Recorder Orchestras in the Netherlands, making me one of the longest standing NYRO participants. Playing in a recorder orchestra is a unique and challenging experience which has helped me to develop as a player and supported my further study of the instrument. When I joined the orchestra, I had never seen a great or contra bass recorder, instruments which, thanks to NYRO, I have now had lots of opportunity to play."*

### **Short-term and Long-term Aspirations**

Our short-term goal is to maintain recent course attendance levels, whilst securing trust funding and building a Board of Trustees with a broad spectrum of specialist knowledge which can support and guide the organisation in the future. We are always interested in hearing from potential trustees with skills in marketing and fund-raising.

Long-term, our aspirations are to maintain the numbers attending our events despite the external challenges we face and to work in partnership with organisations around the country. We continue to review our marketing, relying less on printed material and making more use of electronic mail and social media. We have a large following on Facebook and we have over 750 email subscribers, who receive regular updates on our activities.

### **The Role of the Society of Recorder Players in Continuing to Support the Valuable Work of NYRO**

NYRO's unique selling point is a difficult one for trusts and foundations to understand and the recorder orchestra concept is even more so. The SRP is uniquely placed in understanding both the ensemble genre and the instrument and its support is significant in helping us to achieve our objectives. As this valuable funding continues to decrease, we are struggling to continue long-term to run the range of activities we currently offer.

NYRO continues to be extremely grateful for the financial help given by the SRP since it became an independent charity and requests that this help should be continued in order for us to achieve our

charitable objectives in the future by affording the greatest possible number of playing opportunities to the greatest possible numbers of young recorder players, regardless of their circumstances and their geographical location in the UK. The trustees feel that our outreach work, in the form of Recorder Days around the country, is very important in the achieving of our charitable aims but is never likely to be profitable and will therefore be a cost to the organisation which needs to be funded.

We feel that the future of recorder playing in this country is very much in the hands of players such as those who come up through NYRO. This makes the special relationship between the SRP and NYRO even more important. We would like to continue this relationship to the mutual benefit of both organisations.

### **Our Trustees**

Our current trustees are:

Mr. Ross Winters  
 Miss Emily-May Roebuck  
 Miss Dianne Charles  
 Miss Hannah Rose  
 Mr Martin Prince-Parrott

### **Supplementary Documentation**

	<b>Document</b>	<b>File Name</b>
A	NYRO's financial circumstances	Financial Circumstances.pdf
B	Accounts for 2018-19	NYRO Accounts 2018-19.pdf
C	Budget figures for 2018-19 and 2019-20	Budgets 2018-19 and 2019-20.pdf
D	Booking history from 2009 onwards	Statistics.pdf
E	Report on activities for 2018-19	Administrator's Report 2019-19.pdf
F	Our Constitution	NYRO Constitution.pdf