

Liverpool String Academy 2026-2027 Prospectus

“It was the Liverpool String Academy’s inaugural concert at the city’s Tung Auditorium – but if there were any nerves among its youthful members, they certainly weren’t visible in what proved to be an accomplished and hugely impressive performance. Run by Early Music as Education (EMAE), a charity which basically does what it says on the tin by providing specialist music education for young people – irrespective of background or training – across Merseyside, Liverpool String Academy offers the opportunity to learn violin, viola, cello or double bass (along with associated life skills) with an emphasis on the performance of the Baroque and early Classical period.”

— Catherine Jones
Arts City Liverpool
Review: Liverpool String Academy at the Tung Auditorium



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Who are we?

We are the Liverpool String Academy. We provide high quality, free training in string playing with a particular focus on historically-informed performance. Our tutors are highly trained professional musicians, working as performers in their own right with orchestras such as the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, The Hallé, Opera North and Manchester Baroque.

Our Tutors



Director of Music and Cello Tutor - Lizzie Elliott

Deputy Director of Music and Violin Tutor - Marino Capulli

Violin Tutors - Andrew Taheny and Charlie Roberts

Viola Tutor - Stephanie Roberts

Cello Tutor - Eva Jones and Grace Harvey



Concert Opportunities



Visiting Artists



Music Residencies



Solo Performances



Historically-Informed Performance

What we do

The **Liverpool String Academy** offers young violin, viola, cello and double-bass players specialist education in string playing with particular emphasis upon historically-informed performance and ensemble music. Baroque music can be thought of as music of the past, but through the expert guidance of our passionate tutors, the LSA students discover that this music has actually got more in common with contemporary rock and pop than the stereotypical image of classical music! With the knowledge of style and technique we can bring this music to life in the 21st century.

WE HAVE 5 STRING ENSEMBLES, AT BEGINNER (OPEN STRINGS +), UPPER BEGINNER (GRADES 1-2) INTERMEDIATE (GRADES 3-6) AND ADVANCED (GRADE 7+) LEVELS.

Ensemble Training



Our ensembles are at the heart of what we do. We believe that every child should have access to free, high quality ensemble training.

Playing in an ensemble improves overall musicianship, self-esteem and social skills and whilst at the LSA our students learn the additional skills of Historically-Informed Performance.

We provide high profile concert opportunities at Liverpool's Tung Auditorium as their affiliate ensemble for 2025-2027 and at our home in Liverpool Parish Church. Our ensembles also perform with internationally renowned visiting artists and take part in annual residential trips.

"EMAE is my happy place where I can enjoy playing my violin and socialising with friends"







These ensembles are free to attend and focus on listening skills whilst playing alongside our tutors.

Beginner Ensembles

Day: Monday
Time: 5.30-7pm
Venue: Liverpool Parish Church
Level: Open Strings+

Day: Saturday
Time: 4-6pm
Venue: St Mary's Church, Withens Lane, Liscard.
Level: Upper Beginners (grades 1-2), Beginners (open strings+)

The first hour is focused on ensemble playing where we learn engaging repertoire that is chosen specifically to improve string technique and chamber music skills.
The second part of the session is dedicated to a variety of musical games using Dalcroze and Kodály-inspired activities to build a strong musical foundation.
There are regular opportunities throughout the year for organised extra activites and performances as well as a residential weekend to North Wales.

We always leave time for fun and socialising and with this in mind we organise extra activities and more informal performances through the year.

"EMAE is a once in a lifetime opportunity that has taught me how to become a better musician as well as giving me friendships I cherish”







This ensemble is free to attend and develops a high level of ensemble playing and specialised techniques using baroque bows.

Intermediate Ensemble

Day: Saturday
Time: 5-7pm
Venue: St Mary’s Church, Withens Lane, Liscard.
Level: Grades 3-6

The session is focused on learning engaging repertoire that is chosen specifically to improve string technique and chamber music skills.
At the intermediate level we focus on music from the Baroque era. Our specialist tutors focus on teaching our young musicians to play in a historically-informed style using copies of Baroque bows.

A part of the session is dedicated to a variety of musicial games using Dalcroze and Kodály-inspired activities, as well as covering the ABRSM grade 5 theory syllabus, to build a strong musical foundation.

There are regular opportunities throughout the year for organised extra activities and performances including high profile concerts with the LSA Orchestra and a residential trip to North Wales.

"Being part of the LSA has given me a deeper appreciation of music as a whole - especially early music and has allowed me to gain so much confidence in my performances."







This ensemble is free to attend. It develops an exceptionally high level of ensemble playing alongside professional musicians.



Advanced Ensemble

Day: Monday
Time: 6-8pm
Venue: Liverpool Parish Church
Level: Grade 7+ (entrance by audition)
Age Range: 11-23

At the advanced level we focus on music from the Baroque and Classical eras. Our specialist tutors focus on teaching our young musicians to play in a historically-informed style using copies of Baroque bows.

Our weekly sessions provide an invaluable opportunity to play alongside our tutors and visiting early music specialists where we strive to recreate a professional environment.

We encourage our advanced players to achieve their full potential by providing them with high profile concert opportunities and international tours with the Liverpool String Academy Orchestra.





LSA Orchestra

Established in July 2017 with an emphasis on high level performance, the Liverpool String Academy Orchestra is EMAE's flagship ensemble. Our orchestra is made up of members from our Academy's Advanced ensemble alongside LSA alumni and working professionals from across Merseyside.

We perform a minimum of four concerts a year including an annual performance at The Tung Auditorium as one of their affiliate ensembles for 2025-2027. Performances in the 2025/2026 season have included performances with Thelma Handy, the leader of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at the Tung and at the Wirral Chamber Music Festival in addition to a pre-concert performance for Manchester Baroque at Hallé St Peter's. The academic year will culminate in three performances with visiting artist and international soloist Fabio Bagnoli: two in Italy and one in Liverpool.

Many of our alumni have gone on to study music at conservatoires and university, with some rejoining our ensemble as tutors.

Students get regular solo opportunities with the orchestra. In 2025/2026 a number of students played with the orchestra as soloists including in a performance of Vivaldi's Double Cello Concerto in G Minor.

Partnerships and Visiting Artists



We welcome the acclaimed conductor and double bassist **Vanni Moretto**. Vanni founded the classical orchestra Atalanta Fugiens and has conducted many important baroque orchestras including Il Giardino Armonico. He will collaborate with the LSA Orchestra for a concert on 21st February and will run a continuo workshop with our lower string players.

THE TUNG AUDITORIUM

We are an affiliate ensemble of **The Tung Auditorium** for 2025-2027. The is beneficial for our students as we can access the use of the incredible hall as well as working alongside the music students of the University of Liverpool, giving them an insight into higher education.

MANCHESTER BAROQUE

In 2025/2026 we partnered with **Manchester Baroque**, a professional period instrument orchestra, who delivered a side-by-side rehearsal with our advanced ensemble and invited us to perform at their concert at Hallé St Peter's.



Fabio Bagnoli is one of our international visiting artists. He is one of the most respected oboe soloists and chamber musicians in Italy. He is performing in Turin, Valtournenche and in Liverpool with the LSA Orchestra in 2026 as well as joining us for our 10 year anniversary tour of Italy in 2027.

Annual Residencies



Every summer we take the ensembles for a week away. We have intensive rehearsals culminating in a final performance at the end of the week! We always find time for sight seeing, games and activities. Past residencies have included trips to Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, France, Wales and Scotland.

In 2027 we are planning a beginner residential weekend as well as a residential week in North Wales with the Intermediate Ensemble. The Advanced Ensemble will be taking part in a 10 anniversary tour of Italy!

Our residencies Are affordable for everyone, with the cost highly subsidised by EMAE. There is always financial help available where required.

How to Apply

Visit **https://www.emae.co.uk/apply** or scan the QR code to be a part of the Liverpool String Academy for 2025/2026

Contact us at info@emae.co.uk for more information.



There is no audition required for beginner and intermediate level. Advanced level auditions will be held the week beginning 13th July. You will need to prepare orchestral excerpts, a piece in the baroque or classical style of grade 7 standard or above, as well scales taken from a grade 7 syllabus or above. Memorisation not required.







Outreach in Primary Schools

We currently partner with Egremont Primary, Halebank Church of England Primary, Liscard Primary, St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary and Rimrose Hope Church of England Primary School.

EMAE provides the schools with free weekly music lessons following a specialised curriculum devised by experts. In addition, the Liverpool String Academy provides them with 6 weeks of group string lessons for year 3. A select number of the most enthusiastic and committed students are then invited to join the Liverpool String Academy in return for complimentary 1-1 lessons and ensemble training.

We provide the instruments and extra resources needed for the lessons.

String Instrument Donations

We are always looking for more string instrument donations as we expand our outreach in primary schools. Can you help us give the gift of free music education to a child on Merseyside? Scan the QR Code to donate an unused string instrument today.

We are always looking for string instrument donations!

Email info@emae.co.uk or scan the QR Code to find out how to donate your instruments and contribute towards this amazing work!



How to Support

Visit **https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14215#!/DonationDetails** or scan the QR code to donate!



£15 buys a 30 minute individual lesson



£60 buys a baroque bow



£5000 pays for one year in a primary school





£38 rents a double bass for a term

£500 buys a masterclass



£480 buys 6 weeks of group lessons



£200 buys an ensemble rehearsal

With thanks to...

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