



BMG Information Sheet Number 1

Why a Fretted Instrument Orchestra?

From the experience of BMG orchestras, the reasons for starting such a group cover a wide range:

- as a performance outlet for students
- an informal group wants to become more well-established
- recognising that playing music together is fun, motivating and an opportunity for musicians to share their experience

Aims are various:

- educational
- performance-oriented
- social
- ... and will probably involve all of these in some way.

The aim of this and other facts sheets is to give you tools to get an orchestra up and running, whether it starts from an existing group of players meeting in someone's living room, or with an individual having the drive and ambition to start a formal organisation from scratch.

Any group starting out has to consider a number of issues:

- where to find players
- what instruments to play
- what music
- when, where and how often to rehearse
- cash flow

At a certain point in the life of your group you will want to take it to the public, at the very least as an opportunity for family and friends to hear what you have been up to during all those rehearsals. Performance issues include what music to perform; how much to charge for tickets; linking up with sponsors/ charities; venues; Rallies and festivals etc.

Even informal groups once 'established' with regular rehearsals and a reasonable level of commitment from at least a few core players, will at some point want to formalise their structure with a constitution, possibly going on to apply for charitable status, which would allow greater access to outside funding.