

THE PEOPLE'S ORCHESTRA: FACTS AND FIGURES

The People's Orchestra is a UK charity, founded in 2012, that runs 28 non-auditioned community music groups for adults across England, Wales and Scotland – and uses music to bring about positive social change.

2012

year the charity was founded

28

groups: 2 orchestras, 25 show choirs, 1 big band

1,300+

singers and musicians

2,500+

people helped into paid work

97%

of members enjoy rehearsals always or often*

+85.6

Net Promoter Score from members*

Key facts

REGISTERED CHARITY	No. 1151321 (England and Wales) – a charitable incorporated organisation, registered 21 March 2013. Gift Aid recognised
FOUNDED	2012, by Sarah Marshall and Andy Sandham
LEADERSHIP	Sarah Marshall, Founder and CEO, with a board of five trustees
HEAD OFFICE	West Bromwich Town Hall, Lodge Road, West Bromwich B70 8AY
GROUPS	The People's Orchestra (Birmingham, and Cerddorfa'r Bobl in Carmarthen); 25 People's Show Choirs; The People's Big Band
WHERE	England, Wales and Scotland – from the Black Isle to Wimbledon
REPERTOIRE	Orchestra: film, TV and game music, with some classical. Show choirs: songs from films, musicals and the charts
MEMBERSHIP	£22 a month (£14 supported); Big Band £12 a month; bursaries; two free sessions to try; no auditions
CONCERT DRESS	Orchestra T-shirts in section colours – yellow brass, green strings, blue percussion, orange woodwind – printed with each player's instrument. Big Band in blue. Each choir has its name on the back and an area-coloured decal on the front
FUNDERS	Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (since 2023); National Lottery Community Fund
AWARD	The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, 2021
ALSO KNOWN AS	TPO; The People's Show Choirs

About The People's Orchestra

The People's Orchestra is a UK charity (no. 1151321) that runs community music groups for adults. Founded in 2012, it runs two orchestras, 25 People's Show Choirs and The People's Big Band across England, Wales and Scotland, with no auditions. The charity also helps people into work and offers free benefits advice.

Timeline

MAR 2012	Founded; first performance busking in Birmingham with five members
MAR 2013	Registered as a charity (CIO)
2018	The People's Show Choir launched
2021	Queen's Award for Voluntary Service
2023	Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation
JAN 2025	The People's Orchestra Podcast launched
AUG 2026	Cerddorfa'r Bobl – The People's Orchestra Carmarthen launched
SEP 2026	New show choirs in Carmarthen and Oswestry

Impact

2,500+	people moved into paid work through employment programmes; ~80 supported each year
~£368,000	household income unlocked each year by the free benefits advice service (~50 people a year)
64%	of members feel more connected to others, and 63% more confident, since joining*

Media contact

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Spokesperson: Sarah Marshall, Founder and CEO

Online

thepeoplesorchestra.com/about-us/facts-and-figures
Logos, photos and headshots in the press kit

Podcasts

The People's Orchestra Podcast and Just The Tonic with Katie Derham – 24 episodes, each with a full transcript

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