



Call for applications ONJ Youth Orchestra

Season 8 (2026-2027)

Musical Direction Sarah Murcia

ORCHESTRE NATIONAL DE JAZZ



The Orchestre National de Jazz launches the new season of the ONJ Youth Orchestra, a program for French and European students who want to get involved in an orchestra project.

• Likely candidates

Students from French and European higher education centers of artistic education.

Students in either a specialist-curriculum or preparatory class for higher education at a conservatory or music academy.

• Aims

Since its creation in 2019, this professional integration program has been made up of students from French and European jazz programs, and is dedicated, with the collaboration of former ONJ conductors, to reinterpreting the orchestra's repertoire. Its aim is to pass on a musical heritage to younger generations, introduce it to new audiences, and build a pool of young talent for professionals to discover.

Each year, the Youth Orchestra sets up in a new region of France in collaboration with local stakeholders for a series of concerts and residencies. In 2025, under the artistic direction of Sylvaine Hélyar, the Orchestre National de Jazz is diversifying its collaborations by opening up the musical direction of the Youth Orchestra to other personalities who have played in the ONJ or composed for it throughout its history in order to relive their own repertoire.

For its eighth season, **double bass player, composer and arranger Sarah Murcia** will take the reins of the orchestra. A member and arranger at Frédéric Maurin's ONJ from 2022 to 2024, for many years now, she has stood out for her wide variety of projects, which blend jazz, rock and traditional music and her collaboration Kamylia Jubran, Magic Malik, Steve Coleman, Benoît Delbecq, Gilles Coronado, Fred Poulet, Rodolphe Burger. Her interest for songs and the art of covering songs led her to make it **the central theme of the 8th Youth Orchestra. The program will evolve around arrangements by the singer-songwriter Beck Song Reader.** As Sarah has close ties with the Chambéry National Theatre, it was only natural that the Youth Orchestra, under her direction, should establish itself in the **Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.**

• Instrumentation

11 musicians :

- 1 drum kit
- 1 electric bass (with a mediator)
- 1 double bass
- 1 piano (and synthesizers)
- 1 guitar
- 2 singers
- 1 alto sax*
- 1 tenor sax*
- 1 trumpet
- 1 euphonium

** In your application, please indicate whether you play any other saxophones, woodwinds, or reed instruments besides the one for which you are applying.*

Unsolicited applications from other instrumentalists may be considered.

• Calendar

6 rehearsal and concert sessions are being planned between December 2026 and June 2027.

Dates of sessions scheduled as of today :

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| • December 21, 22, 23 | Studio ONJ / Paris (75) |
| • January 7, 8, 9 | Espace Louis Nordon / Vernoux-en-Vivarais (07) |
| • February 26, 27, 28 | Jazz Campus / Basel (Switzerland) |
| • April 13, 14, 15 | Le Triton / Les Lilas (93) |
| • April, 16, 17 | Académie de Composition / Le Triton / Paris (75) |
| • May 7, 8, 9 | La Baie des Singes / Cournon-d'Auvergne (63) |
| • July 2, 3, 4 | Jazz à Vienne/ Vienne (38) |

For this season, the residencies will take place in France, mainly in the **Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region**. They will provide an opportunity for several cultural activities, professional meetings, and extra-musical training in collaboration with local partners. In addition, the Orchestra will be involved in the 6th edition of the Académie de Composition, organized by ONJ at the CNSM in Paris (a concert featuring the selected composers). A recording session will also be organized at the CNSM, in partnership with the Musique Son Image department.

• Application form

- A resume (CV).
- Two videos excerpts in which the candidate plays and improvises, or alternatively 2 audio recordings.

At least one of the two excerpts must present the candidate in a group context.

Videos filmed in a personal work context — in order to show the musician's personality — will be welcomed.

For drummers, no solo pieces; prefer playing in an orchestra or large ensemble.

The application will be examined by a selection committee comprising Sarah Murcia (musical director), Sylvaine Hély (artistic and executive director of the ONJ), Olivier Py (saxophonist, member of Sarah Murcia's groups) and Marianne Clair (head of cultural and educational projects of the ONJ).

As part of the ONJ's active policy of restoring gender parity in jazz orchestras, we strongly encourage women to apply.

• Modalities

- Only adults (over 18 years old) and students are allowed to apply.

- Application file to be sent to: orchestredesjeunes@onj.org

The video and audio files are to be sent only by **WeTransfer** – no other transmission channel is accepted.

Audios : 10 Mb maximum / Videos : 100 Mb maximum.

Please specify **your name, first name and the name of the instrument** played in the name of the files.

- Travel, lodging and meals are provided by the ONJ.

- Concert and recording activities are paid for. Rehearsals, considered as training time, are subject to an agreement with the partner schools.

Application deadline :
October 15, 2026

More infos

> onj.org

> Discover the documentary *L'Orchestre des Jeunes de l'ONJ* directed by Slaven Rébéo.

> Listen to the ONJ discography on Bandcamp : orchestrenationaldejazz.bandcamp.com

> Contact : orchestredesjeunes@onj.org / +33 (0)1 82 83 43 21

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