

Music in the Round Grade-a-thon!

Have you ever fancied playing a musical instrument, but never quite got round to it? And do you love Music in the Round, and want to help us raise much needed funds? Sign up to join, and raise money for Music in the Round by asking your friends and family to sponsor you in **the challenge of learning a new instrument, and sitting the Grade I exam, in just a few months!**

We are looking forward to having loads of fun sharing the joy of tackling a new instrument with others, with all the highs and lows of grappling with new fingerings and keys. The Music in the Round team will be joining in too, and **we'll be here to support you all the way.**

Music in the Round is a charity, and 2024 will be our 40th anniversary year. Help us to raise funds for the next 40 glorious years of bringing people closer to music!

Below is some information about **what to expect** and **how to take part**. You can also email verity@musicintheround.co.uk with any questions.

What to expect – your questions answered

What is a grade-a-thon?

A grade-a-thon is a sponsored challenge, in which you will learn a new instrument, sit (and hopefully pass!) your Grade I exam in just a few months. It is a **fundraiser** for Music in the Round; you will ask your friends and family to sponsor your hard work, and the money will come to our charity. Absolutely anyone can take part, as long as you haven't already passed grade exams for the instrument you choose.

How do I take part?

First of all, **pick your instrument!** It could be your partner's instrument, the piano that's always been in your living room but you've never got round to playing, or any instrument you've always fancied trying. If you don't have access to the instrument you want to learn, Music in the Round will try our best to find one for you.

Then – learn, learn, learn! You **have until February to get to Grade I standard**. It will be lots of fun, as well as challenging! For the exam, you will need to learn **four pieces**. You will need to get some music – you can buy it yourself, or we can help you find it.

What will the exam be like?

We will be doing **Digital Exams**. To enter a digital exam, all you need is **one video recording of you playing all four of your chosen pieces one after the other**. We will provide a time and place in Feb/March 2024, with an accompanist, and will record your performance so you don't have to worry about making the video yourself. We will then submit it on your behalf. (If you want to

make the video yourself at home, you can – we can talk you through how to make sure it's the right quality.)

What pieces can I play?

You will need to learn four pieces from the Grade I syllabus for your instrument. The syllabus has lists, and you will choose at least one piece from each of the three lists (A, B and C). The fourth piece can be from the syllabus, or your own choice.

You can find the syllabuses at the bottom of this page on ABRSM's website

<https://gb.abrsm.org/en/our-exams/performancegrades/preparing-for-an-exam/>

Are there any costs involved?

Yes, the exam costs **£48** for you to take. You can choose whether you would like to pay this yourself, or it can be covered by the sponsorship money that you raise.

How much should I aim to raise in sponsorship?

Our grade-a-thon should be lots of fun for everyone involved, but we also hope to raise lots of money for Music in the Round! Think about how many people you know who could sponsor you, and how much money they might be willing to give. Some of the team in the office are aiming for around £200 - £300 in sponsorship money.

How should I gather sponsorship money?

Music in the Round will have a **JustGiving** campaign page for the Grade-a-thon. When you have signed up, we'll send you instructions for how to set up your own fundraising page. You'll then have a link to send to your family and friends, so they can sponsor you easily online.

Online sponsorship is easiest for Music in the Round, but if you struggle to get your sponsors to engage with online fundraising, we don't want to miss out on those donations! If you need a paper form, ask and we'll send you one.

I have another question...

Email Verity Henderson, Development Manager at verity@musicintheround.co.uk with any questions! I usually work Tuesday-Thursday and will get back to any questions you have as soon as I can.

Fill in the form

Click the link or scan the QR code to sign up and give us your details:

<https://forms.office.com/e/mJ8GF5BivJ>

