



Thoughts on Whether to Join WAGO (as at 2024)



The **Wyvern Afinado Guitar Orchestra (WAGO)** is an amateur guitar orchestra that aims to play and perform high quality, generally classical music, to the best of our abilities and operates from Hewish Village Hall in North Somerset. The group aims to have circa 10-14 guitarists (although this will vary over time). WAGO members can come from any guitar society or geographical area, provided they are willing to attend monthly practise meetings. WAGO - A 'Wyvern' is the dragon on the Somerset flag, and 'Afinado' is a Spanish word meaning 'in tune' or 'polished'. The group aims to hold at least 2 concerts a year, usually in Jun/Jul and Nov/Dec.

For guitarists who express an interest in playing in WAGO, then the thoughts below may help to decide if WAGO is an ensemble that is a good fit for them. Members should:

- have enthusiasm to play interesting, sometimes challenging, classical guitar ensemble music.
- be prepared to practise their own parts **before** ensemble practise nights. This is essential to allow practise nights to focus on developing the ensemble.
- enjoy ensemble playing, including with other orchestral instruments, and to be led by external professional musicians, composers, and conductors.
- be a minimum classical guitar playing standard equivalent to a grade of, circa 6 to 8 and, can sight read standard classical guitar notation to the standard of their playing.
- be willing to attend all/most practises - 4th Thurs of each month (7pm to 10.30pm) - in Hewish, WsM, Nth Somerset (occasionally at other local venues).
- note that if players cannot make all Thurs practises (we all have times when diary clashes occur), they must work on their parts externally, and attend the main preparation workshops (possibly 2 or 3 full day, usually Sunday, events) prior to the concert, which are usually led by professional guitarists and other musicians.
- be prepared to play in a minimum of 2 WAGO concerts per year (in June/July and Nov/Dec). Other concert dates/venues may occur, agreed on a case-by-case basis.
- **understand that joining WAGO means a commitment to the next concert date.**
- be prepared to play (sometimes, but not always) only one guitar to a part, recognising that not being able to attend practises, can impact the ensemble's preparation.
- be prepared to perform to an audience and dressed in WAGO logo'd livery.
- be prepared occasionally to play parts on non-standard guitars (ie, Soprano/octave, Quint/Alto, Requinto, Terz, Contra and Baritone Bases). These guitars are provided.
- be prepared to attend and pay the minimal fees for professional leadership of whole day workshops (circa £30-£50 per person per workshop).
- Be prepared to pay £5/mtg/practise eve (funds: hall hire, refreshments, music).
- be prepared to play parts across the full guitar orchestra range (ie. first guitar to Bass), within a concert programme (regardless of standard of player, but obviously within the capability of the player). Intended to allow all access to a range of parts.
- be prepared to play in smaller ensembles and, if the player is ready, to play solos.
- fit within the WAGO group dynamic.

Best wishes

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WAGO Lead

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