



## Viotta Youth Orchestra Association

One of the greatest joys of learning a music instrument is playing together with others in a real orchestra! The Viotta Youth Orchestra Association (or 'Viotta', as we simply like to call it) makes this become a reality for children and youth of different age groups and levels of musical skills.

All six orchestras of Viotta make (classical) symphonic music. The progressive structure offers excellent entry points for new members, compatible with their instrumental experience and age.

But Viotta stands for much more than just "two hours a week of enjoyable music making". Our professional conductors constantly stimulate members to bring out the best in themselves. We organize rehearsal weekends with qualified coaches, supporting individual development of the orchestra members. All orchestras perform in concerts on a regular basis throughout the year. From time to time our orchestras are invited to provide musical support to festivals at various venues and one orchestra even goes on international concert-tour.

### **A brief introduction to the various Viotta ensembles and orchestras.**

Mastery of an musical instrument does not happen spontaneously. The same is true for playing in an orchestra or ensemble. In the ***Viotta Preparatory Ensemble***, consisting of 'Intrada' (lead by Inge Reinders) and 'Da Capo' (lead by Madelon Christians), our youngest members are introduced to the most essential principles of playing together within an orchestral setting. We focus on learning to listen to each other as well as following the instructions given by the conductor.

"Da Capo" and "Intrada" are similar groups. Together they form the Viotta Preparatory Ensemble. These groups are relatively small ( $\pm$  25 children). This enables our conductors to really pay full attention to the individual development of every child in this initial stage of his/her orchestral career. The limited number of children in each group also ensures new members to quickly feel at ease.

In close cooperation and carefully considering the child's musical and social development, our conductors decide the best moment for a child to move on to the Viotta Junior Ensemble.



The ***Viotta Junior Ensemble*** (lead by Inge Reinders) consists of  $\pm$  60 children. The more challenging environment of the Junior Ensemble aims to further develop the skills acquired in the Preparatory Ensemble, increasing the pleasure of making music together. In addition to the weekly practices, the Junior Ensemble occasionally goes on excursions (for example the annual concert in the Efteling). The members of this orchestra enjoy several social afternoons around music, during which notorious amounts of delicious pancakes are consumed! The Viotta Junior Ensemble offers young musicians mastering the most elementary instrumental techniques an attractive introduction to playing in a real symphonic orchestra at a young age.

The ***Viotta Youth Orchestra*** (lead by Coen Stuit) is made up of around 70 members, roughly between 10 and 15 years of age, with an intermediate musical skill level. A great number of them progresses from the Junior Ensemble, but joining this orchestra directly is of course possible. At the start of the season, a study weekend away from home establishes the fundamentals for a successful social and musical bonding. The Youth Orchestra consistently delivers high quality performances during concerts and competitions. Recent years saw successful music-theatre productions with Steef Hupkes, a well-known Dutch actor.

The ***Viotta Youth Sinfonietta*** (also lead by Coen Stuit) was founded in 2015. This ensemble plays in chamber-orchestra formation and consists of about 25 children aged 12-15 years. Sinfonietta offers teenagers an extra challenge, as the social and musical responsibilities required from each musician in the more intimate setting of a chamber-orchestra are indeed very different from those needed in a large orchestra. The smaller format of the ensemble offers also possibilities of performing at different venues.

The ***Viotta Symphony Orchestra*** is our senior orchestra. Its highly skilled musicians, between 14 and 20 years of age, come from all over the province of South-Holland and occasionally beyond. The Viotta Symphony Orchestra interprets famous and lesser known large-scale works by composers like Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Strawinsky and Shostakovich.

Every other year, the Viotta Symphony Orchestra goes on concert tour abroad. Our participation in international music festivals has always been much welcomed by the host organizers, providing our members an excellent chance to meet young musicians from other parts of Europe.

In addition, the winner of the Viotta Award in the annual Princes Christina Concours for talented young musicians is offered the opportunity to perform as a soloist with the Viotta Symphony Orchestra. In 1992 the now world famous violinist Janine Jansen was one of these talented musicians!

## Our conductors

Viotta´s conductors are professionals with a passion for contributing to the development of young musicians. Their wide experience and wealth of expertise make them perfectly fit for their specific orchestras. On our website you can find more information on each of them.

## Weekly Rehearsals

The rehearsals are held every Saturday afternoon at Haags Montessori Lyceum (HML) at Nassau Bredastraal 3, 2596 AK The Hague. The rehearsal times are as follows:

Viotta Preparatory ensemble group "Da Capo"	14:45 – 16:00
Viotta Preparatory ensemble group "Intrada"	17:30 – 18:45
Viotta Junior ensemble	15:15 – 16:45
Viotta Youth Orchestra	17:00 – 19:15
Viotta Youth Sinfonietta	15:00 – 16:45
Viotta Symphony Orchestra	17:00 – 19:30

## Do come by

Do come by to visit our rehearsals! Do not only observe what´s going on, but also bring your instrument along! You can immediately experience how wonderful it is to make music with other musicians and we ensure you will want to return every week.

Also check out our website [www.viotta.nl](http://www.viotta.nl) or send an email to [info@viotta.nl](mailto:info@viotta.nl) for more information.

The **Stichting Culturalis**, the **Gilles Hondius Foundation**, **Stichting Nicolaas Gasthuis** and the **Wim Bredenhorst Stichting** help us achieve our goals.

