Paula O'Malley started playing percussion at the age of nine in her hometown of Paisley, Scotland. Spending four years at the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, she was principal percussionist of all orchestras there and won the prestigious Colin Currie Young Percussionist Award.

A member of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland for six years, she has played at prestigious concert halls, including the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, the BBC Proms in the Royal Albert Hall and the Shanghai Grand Theatre.

Paula studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Whilst at the RNCM, Paula has played in the Halle Orchestra, RNCM Symphony Orchestra on many occasions, performed internationally with the Black Dyke Band and in the Piccadilly Symphony Orchestra.