

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Concert Master (Joint Leader)

Reports to: Orchestra Manager

Overall purpose of job:

To lead the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, inspiring and motivating the highest performance standards at all times.

The Orchestra of the Royal Opera House works with the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet to perform a diverse programme at its home in Covent Garden. The vast majority of the work of the orchestra takes place in the main auditorium at the Royal Opera House. The orchestra also very occasionally undertakes UK or foreign tours, concerts and commercial recording work.

The artistic programme in the Linbury Theatre may offer occasional opportunities for the Concert Masters to take part in chamber music and other small scale creative performance activities. The Southbank Sinfonia is a partner organisation of the ROH and Concert Masters may wish to participate in joint artistic projects.

The contract for this position is for an agreed number of playing hours spread over a performing season of 47 or 48 weeks, and 5 weeks annual leave which is scheduled by the Orchestra Management. There are no 'normal' hours of work; you are expected to work on an agreed schedule between 10:00 and the end of an evening performance on any day of the week, Monday – Sunday, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the orchestra's schedule.

Key Accountabilities:

- To be a key artistic figure liaising between the Orchestra, the Music Directors and the Management of the Royal Opera House, as well as with Guest Conductors.
- To work effectively with all Section Principal players in order that they achieve the highest possible artistic standards themselves and from their sections in all circumstances in collaboration with the Orchestra Admin. Director and the other Concert Masters.
- To report to, support and work with the Orchestra Admin. Director on any personnel and contractual matters pertaining to the orchestra.
- To advise the Orchestra Admin. Director or Orchestra Manager regarding player capability problems and rehearsal/performance discipline issues within the Orchestra and to assist with resolving associated difficulties.
- To be actively involved in the recruitment process for new members as a key artistic figure, as a member of panels, and by hearing musicians who are on trial for vacant positions.

- On a schedule as agreed with the Orchestra Manager and the other Concert Masters, play for a balance of Opera and Ballet productions throughout the ROH performing season in accordance with the terms of the orchestra's lock – in policy.
- By arrangement, appear as part of a stage band for ROH productions, sometimes on stage in costume and with the requirement to play from memory.
- To have an involvement in concert and commercial work undertaken by the Orchestra (sometimes outside of contracted hours and salary)
- To act as a role model and proactive team leader who builds positive and supportive relationships with all members of the orchestra.
- To demonstrate and uphold with colleagues the highest standards of professional personal behaviour and to promote and support ROH policies particularly those that relate to work in the Orchestra pit.
- To lead and motivate colleagues by example to perform to the highest standards at all times.
- To undertake any other duties as may be reasonably required in the above post.

Person Specification:

The ideal candidate will be an exceptional player able to demonstrate the following knowledge, skills and experience:

Required

- Highly reputable classical music training.
- Performer of outstanding calibre with considerable and extensive experience in a professional orchestra.
- Ability to play orchestral solos and concertos as a soloist when required in the repertoire.
- Continuing professional experience of leading a major orchestra or can clearly demonstrate their ability to fulfil the role.

Personal Skills

- Commitment to delivering and maintaining a very high standard of work
- Strong communication skills leadership qualities and communication skills both on and off the music stand.
- Able to lead, motivate and inspire a team, and to work under pressure.
- Able to establish and develop harmonious and positive working relationships with a diverse range of people.
- Ability to understand and to converse in English.

Desirable

- A considerable period of professional playing for opera and ballet would be a great advantage.
- Extensive experience of having held a position as a Leader.
- Proven expertise as a practitioner in a broad range of musical and performance activity – including Learning & Participation work and chamber music.

Job Requirements

The post holder is required to have an instrument suitable for the role.

Note: This Job Description reflects the current situation. It does not preclude change or development that might be required in the future.

