

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Associate Concert Master (No. 2)

Reports to: Head of Orchestra Administration

Overall purpose of job:

The Orchestra of the Royal Opera House performs a diverse programme of opera and ballet at its home in Covent Garden, working with the Royal Ballet, the Royal Opera and ROH2. The orchestra also plays for a limited programme of concert and commercial recording work and occasionally undertakes UK or foreign tours.

The artistic programme in the Linbury Theatre may offer occasional opportunities for individual orchestra members to take part in chamber music and other small scale creative performance activities. Our Learning & Participation Department has an extensive outreach programme. Players can choose to participate in this, and also in joint artistic projects with the Southbank Sinfonia which is a partner organisation of the ROH.

Responsibility for leading the orchestra each season is divided between:

- three Concert Masters
- two Associate Concert Masters (who share the no.2 seat)

In addition to this, the 1st Violin section comprises of two Assistant Concert Masters, two Sub-Principals and twelve Rank & File players.

As an Associate Concert Master, you would be required to lead the orchestra as scheduled and in the event of the sudden absence of the Concert Master. You would also be expected to demonstrate support for and assistance to the Concert Masters in rehearsal and performance.

The contract for this position covers 860 hours of playing spread over a performing season of normally 47 or 48 weeks, plus 5 weeks annual leave which is scheduled by the orchestra management. You are expected to work on a personal schedule agreed with Orchestra Management between 10:00 and the end of an evening performance on any day of the week, Monday – Sunday. Within these working hours and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the orchestra's contract, which is agreed on a collective basis with the Musicians' Union, you are required to fulfil the following key duties:

Key Accountabilities:

- To play for a balance of main house opera and ballet productions throughout the ROH season
- To play for at least two productions conducted by each of the Music Directors in each season
- To cover the no 2 seat as required and lead the orchestra on occasion
- To support the Concertmasters in communicating issues back through the first violin section
- To report to Orchestra Management on any matters pertaining to the section, such as personnel issues, specific repertoire requirements and the contracting of extra players.
- To be proactive in motivating all section members to perform to the highest standard.
- 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.
- On occasion, to play as part of a stage band, or to play on stage in costume with the requirement to play from memory
- To play for occasional concerts and commercial recording work, and if you choose to, for projects with the Learning & Participation Department.
- To ensure best practice at all times, referring to Orchestra Management for guidance on current legislation and ROH policies.

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Required

- An outstanding violinist with extensive classical training
- Considerable professional orchestral experience

Personal Skills

- Commitment to delivering a very high standard of work
- Good communication skills
- Self motivated, reliable, versatile and able to work under pressure
- Able to lead the orchestra as required
- Able to work both alone and co-operatively as part of a team
- Able to develop positive working relationships with other members of the violin section and the wider orchestra

- Respect for others demonstrated by being fully prepared to play at the start of every session.
- Able to understand and to converse in English

Desirable

- Knowledge of the repertoire gained through experience of playing opera and ballet would be a great advantage
- Experience of leading a professional orchestra
- Proven expertise in a broad range of musical and performance activities including education 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.

