



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

Audition

Information Pack



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1. Who are we?

The Royal Opera, under the direction of Antonio Pappano and Director of Opera Oliver Mears, is one of the world's leading opera companies. Based in the iconic Covent Garden theatre, it is renowned both for its outstanding performances of traditional opera and for commissioning new works by today's leading opera composers, from Judith Weir and Mark-Anthony Turnage to George Benjamin and Kaija Saariaho.

Some of the world's most famous singers have performed with the Company, including Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming, Pretty Yende, Juan Diego Flórez, Angel Blue, Angela Gheorghiu, Jonas Kaufmann, Anna Netrebko and Bryn Terfel.

The Royal Opera Chorus was created in 1946 for the re-opening of the Royal Opera House after World War II. Known then as the Covent Garden Opera Chorus, it first appeared during December the same year in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, staged together with Sadler's Wells Ballet (now The Royal Ballet). Its first full-scale opera production was *Carmen* in January 1947.

The Chorus is the backbone of The Royal Opera and, under the leadership of Chorus Director William Spaulding and his deputy Genevieve Ellis, performs in an average of 20 productions each season in a wide repertoire ranging from Baroque through to newly commissioned works. The chorus is frequently augmented by as many as 80 freelance singers when larger productions are mounted.

As most operas are performed in the original language (Italian, French, German, Russian, Czech) the chorus works closely with language coaches during the rehearsal period.

The chorus will often be performing in two or three productions in the evenings while rehearsing the staging or learning the music of several other operas during the day.



2. How do I apply for a Regular Chorus position?

We are currently recruiting for six permanent, full-time contracts for the Royal Opera Chorus.

We are seeking applications from suitably experienced singers for the following voice types:

1 st Soprano	(2 positions)
2 nd Mezzo	(1 position)
1 st Tenor	(1 position)
2 nd Bass	(2 positions)

To apply please fill out the online application form on the vacancies section of our website. You can save the application form online and come back to it before you submit it. We will then review applications received and invite successful applicants to attend an audition.



3. ROH commitment to diversity

The ROH's aim is for many more people to enjoy and engage with exceptional ballet and opera. We believe that greater diversity of outlook, practice and people will help create better, richer, more relevant and more dynamic artforms that appeal to a wider range of people.

The Royal Opera House is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment in which everyone can thrive. We ensure we operate a fair recruitment and selection process. We particularly welcome applications from those who are currently under-represented in our workforce, particularly those who are ethnically diverse, and/or are disabled.

As a disability confident employer, we guarantee to interview or audition all disabled applicants who meet the essential minimum criteria for our vacancies.

4. What does the audition process involve?

Auditions will be split into two rounds and held from 4th April – 26th May.

The **first round** will require applicants to prepare:

- Two opera arias, contrasting in style and language (not English)
- Two chorus passages from a list of six such passages provided in advance. The passages need not be memorised.

To ensure that we operate a scrupulously fair process the first round of auditions will be conducted 'unsighted', with the panel screened from auditioning singers.

In the **second round**, applicants will be required to prepare:

- Two opera arias, only one of which may be the same as an aria offered in round one
- All six passages provided in advance. The passages need not be memorised.
- There will be acting element for all participants, guided on the day.



5. Health & Safety

The health and safety of all Royal Opera House employees, visitors, contractors, artists and members of the public is paramount, and we aim to foster a culture of continuous improvement and a positive approach to safety. We want to communicate clearly to staff and enable them to do their best work, knowing they are supported in creating a safe working environment for all.



6. What are the ROH values and behaviours?

Everyone who works at the ROH in any role is expected to commit to upholding the following values through their behaviour:

Treat everyone with Respect	Embrace and celebrate the different contributions that we all bring to the ROH
Be Open	Take a fresh look – be open minded, share, engage, learn and question – and empower others to do the same
Value the Highest standards	We all play an important part to deliver extraordinary experiences

7. Terms and conditions

£42,274 per annum

Full-time (38 hours per week averaged over the Season)

Permanent

5 weeks' summer holiday, and one week mid-season break, designated by the Royal Opera

The start date for positions is Monday 29th August 2022.

Regular Choristers are paid via monthly payroll on a PAYE basis.

Applicants must have work authorisation for the UK.

Other benefits

Regular Choristers have the opportunity to:

- Apply for paid Additional Engagements with the Royal Opera as they arise
- Audition for Small Parts and Cover roles, within Royal Opera productions (Paid additionally)
- Apply for up to 12 NAs per season for professional engagements

As a permanent employee of the Royal Opera House, choristers are able to join the organisations' Aviva Pension Scheme and upon passing a probationary period, may apply for the ROH Season Ticket Loan and Bicycle Loan Schemes



8. FAQ

I am currently on the Extra Chorus list; do I need to apply?

Yes, if you would like to be considered for a permanent role within the Royal Opera Chorus, you will need to apply.

When will I know if I have been successful?

Those who are successful in passing the first round will be invited back for a second audition. The second round of auditions do not finish until 26th May. It is unlikely we will be confirming the appointment of successful applicants until June 2022.

Will I have to complete a probationary period?

Yes, there will be a probationary period of 9 months.

If I am unsuccessful in my application for a full-time job, how can I get an Extra Chorus job?

We are not currently looking to add to our pool of Extra Chorus members at this time as we auditioned for Extra Choristers in the 2020-2021 season.

Will I get free tickets to performances?

Yes, Choristers receive one ticket to General Rehearsals. Regular Choristers also share two seats granted to the Regular Chorus for opera performances on a rota basis.

Where do I go if I have any questions?

If you have any questions about how to apply, please email: hr.recruitment@roh.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your application

