



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

FREELANCE MUSIC STAFF

Audition Information Pack



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1. Who are we?

The Royal Opera, under the musical 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.

With a busy programme of performances our répétiteurs are vital to ensuring that Principals are coached to work with the Royal Opera to the highest artistic standards.



2. What does the role entail?

The role includes but is not limited to:

- Work as a répétiteur including assisting conductors, playing, prompting, stage and pit duties, coaching, standing-in for conductors
- To act as répétiteur or coach for singers undertaking Principal roles and other artists as directed
- To assist with the rehearsal process and staging of Operas as directed (This includes main stage, Linbury and any other designated venue where the Royal Opera perform)
- To attend stage rehearsals or performances as necessary to monitor progress and general level of performance for artists receiving coaching, and to comment on the overall quality of performances
- To give support, advice and feedback to the Head of Music, Music Director and artistic team in rehearsal and staging of operas
- Play piano for rehearsals, sitzproben and stage and piano rehearsals
- Play for auditions as required
- Mark, correct and maintain piano rehearsal scores
- Assist conductors as required at stage rehearsals
- Conduct stage bands as requested
- Promote the interests of the Royal Opera and the Royal Opera House in the UK and overseas by keeping abreast of the operatic world, building and maintaining networks and nurturing young talent.



3. How do I apply to join the freelance music staff pool?

We are currently recruiting exceptional music staff to join our freelance pool, to coach ROH Principals and Guest Principals to work with the Royal Opera to the highest artistic standards.

We are seeking applications from suitably experienced professionals with the following essential skills/experience:

- Comprehensive knowledge of the opera repertoire
- Significant experience as a répétiteur for a major opera company
- A high-profile coach/assistant conductor and equivalent experience as a recitalist with singers of an international standard
- A detailed knowledge of the working processes of an opera company, with experience of scheduling
- A team player, with a natural rapport with singers, conductors and director, who gets involved in the creative process and takes an interest across all productions

The following will be highly regarded:

- Conducting experience with internationally recognised orchestras
- Considerable experience of nurturing talent and a thorough understanding of the processes of the training of singers
- Fluency in German, French and Italian and ability to work in Czech and Russian
- Thorough knowledge of the national and international opera and music world in general, along with an awareness of the wider context into which The Royal Opera fits
- Ability to communicate both in writing and orally in a fluent and persuasive manner, in good clear English, and to listen, negotiate and be assertive as appropriate
- Competent IT user – Word, Excel, Outlook

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.

4. 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.



5. What does the audition process involve?

Auditions will be split into two rounds and held between **7th and 8th June 2022.**

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

- Play and sing in German an excerpt of Die Walküre Act 1 - beginning 2 bars before Fig 51 - Sehr Lebhaft before "O fänd Ich ihn heut"
- Play and sing in Italian an excerpt of Le Nozze di Figaro Act 2 Finale, beginning at Bar 328 (Signori di fuori)
- Play and sing a prepared extract of your own choice – maximum 3 and a half minutes
- Read at sight 2 short sections of spoken text in German and French
- Prepared sight reading. Candidates will be given a complex piece of sight reading 10 minutes before the audition begins and will then be asked to play it in the audition.
- Sight reading of standard operatic repertoire, without preparation time.

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

In the **second round**, applicants will be required to undertake the following assessments:

- Following a Conductor - Candidates will play a Puccini extract (to be confirmed) and will be conducted by a member of the panel
- Strauss extract (to be confirmed) - candidates will sing and play
- Conducting - Candidates will conduct a singer in a short aria or section of aria (to be confirmed)
- Formal interview

6. 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.



7. What are the ROH values and behaviours?

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

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| 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 |



8. Terms and conditions

£40.63 per hour including rolled up holiday pay

Minimum call time of 2 hours

Offers of work are on a casual basis only. We are unable to guarantee those on our list of freelance music staff a minimum number of calls, or any particular share of the work available. Freelance music staff are at liberty to decline offers of work, and are engaged on a non-exclusive basis so are free to work elsewhere between engagements

As a working performance venue, calls may include evenings and weekends

Applicants must have work authorisation for the UK



9. FAQs

When will I know if I have been successful?

Those who are successful in passing the first unsighted round will be invited back for a second audition the same week so please ensure you have availability week beginning 6th June 2022. Auditions will be in person only, we cannot accept video submissions. We will be confirming the invitations for successful applicants to join the freelance pool within 2 weeks of the audition dates.

How much work can I expect?

This is a casual engagement – work will be offered to the pool of freelance music staff as it becomes available – as detailed in the Terms and Conditions.

Are there opportunities for permanent work?

All fixed term and permanent vacancies will be advertised on the ROH careers page; freelance staff are welcome to apply.

Where do I go if I have any questions?

If you have any questions about how to apply or require any reasonable adjustments to the application process, please email: hr.recruitment@roh.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your application

