

JOB DESCRIPTION

Role / Title: **Section Principal Viola (Joint Principal)**

Reports to: Head of Orchestra Administration

Overall Purpose of the Job:

To lead the Viola section, 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 individual orchestra members to take part in chamber music and other small scale creative performance activities. The Southbank Sinfonia is a partner organisation of the ROH, and players may wish to participate in joint artistic projects.

The Viola section comprises two Section Principals, two Principals, two Sub-Principals and seven Rank & File players.

The contract for this position is for 1,000 hours annually. 860 hours of playing are spread over a performing season of 47 or 48 weeks and 5 weeks of annual leave are 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 collective agreement.

Key Accountabilities:

- On a schedule as agreed with the Orchestra Management, 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
- To divide work equally with the other Section Principal and to play for at least two productions conducted by the Music Directors in each season
- On occasion, to 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 manage the section in collaboration with the other Section Principal. To report to and work with the Head of Orchestra Administration on any personnel and contractual matters pertaining to the section.

- To act as a proactive team leader who builds positive and supportive relationships with all section members. To lead by example and motivate all section members to perform to the highest standards at all times.
- To work in close collaboration with the other Section Principals.
- To undertake any other duties as may be reasonably required in the above post.
- To commit to and demonstrate ROH Values and Behaviours in all aspects of working life at ROH.

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 continuing experience in a professional symphonic – sized orchestra or chamber orchestra
- Continuing experience of leading a section
- Work authorisation for the UK (ROH can provide support in obtaining this if necessary)

Personal Skills

- Commitment to delivering and maintaining a very high standard of work
- Good communication skills
- Able to lead, motivate and inspire a team, and to work under pressure
- Able to develop positive working relationships with other members of the string section and the wider orchestra.
- 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 permanent contractual position as a Section Principal
- Proven expertise as a practitioner in a broad range of musical and performance activity including education work and chamber music

Job requirements:

The post holder must own their own viola and bow, both of which should be of a standard suitable for performing professionally.

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