



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

JOB DESCRIPTION

Role/Title: Section Principal Double Bass (Joint Principal)

Reports to: Orchestra Manager

Overall Purpose of the Job:

To lead the Double Bass 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 but 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 Double Bass section comprises two Section Principals, two Principals, one Sub-Principal and four Rank & File players.

The contract for this position is for 860 hours of playing spread over a performing season of 47 or 48 weeks and 5 weeks of 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 collective agreement.

Key Accountabilities:

- On a schedule as agreed with the Orchestra Manager, 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. This includes playing continuo as required by the repertoire.
- Divide work equally with the other Section Principal and play for at least two productions conducted by the Music Director in each season.

- On occasion, appear as part of a stage band for ROH productions, sometimes on stage in costume, and with the requirement to play from memory.
- Have an involvement in occasional concert and commercial work undertaken by the Orchestra (sometimes outside of contracted hours and salary)
- Manage the section in collaboration with the other Section Principal. Report to and work with the Orchestra Director on any personnel and contractual matters pertaining to the section.
- Act as a proactive team leader who builds positive and supportive relationships with all section members. Lead by example and motivate all section members to perform to the highest standards at all times.
- Work in close collaboration with the other Section Principals in the orchestra and demonstrate a commitment to the highest standards of artistic integrity befitting a Section Principal role.
- To commit to and demonstrate ROH values and Behaviors in all aspects of working life at the ROH.
- 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 continuing experience in a professional symphonic – sized orchestra or chamber orchestra
- Continuing experience of leading or sitting on the front desk of an established professional section
- Work authorisation for the UK (ROH can provide support in obtaining this if necessary)

Personal Skills

- Commitment to delivering a high standard of work and continuous improvement.
- Good communication skills
- Ability 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 instrument and bow, both of which should be 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.

