



ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS AUDITION INFORMATION PACK

Regular Chorus Vacancies –

1st TENOR

1st BASS (Baritone)

Positions Available from the 2024/25 Season

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE



La Traviata The Royal Opera © 2021 ROH Ph by Tristram Kenton

WELCOME

MESSAGE FROM ALEX BEARD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Thank you for taking the time to apply for a role at the Royal Opera House.

Extraordinary, world-class performances of opera and ballet are at the absolute heart of our vision here at the Royal Opera House.

So, whether the audience is in one of our beautiful theatres in Covent Garden, watching around the globe in cinemas and online streaming, or taking part in learning and participation programmes up and down the country, we want as many people as possible to enjoy and appreciate these astonishing artforms.

None of this would be possible without the exceptional team of people who work here. People are centre stage of everything we do at ROH, and we built our culture on our core values: treating everyone with Respect, being Open in our mindset and approach, and striving for the Highest Standards in everything we do.

Everyone is welcome at ROH, whatever your background or experience, and we look forward to your application.

Best of luck!

Alex

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE



ABOUT US

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, the Royal Opera House (ROH) brings together world-class performers and trailblazing creative teams to share unforgettable performances with audiences near and far.

We house the busiest theatres in the world, delivering more than 400 performances and around 1,350 learning events each year. We employ 1100 permanent staff and generate a turnover of £135m, attracting 1.5m attendances in Covent Garden and in cinemas.

We're at the forefront of innovation in ways in which audiences can experience opera and ballet. Our work is accessed and experienced across the UK and globally through streams, tours, cinema relays, radio broadcasts and TV output. We are also at the forefront of sustainability in the arts sector, working with other leaders in this area to try to reduce our environmental impact and inspire our audiences to help us on our journey to net zero.

We work across three sites, all enabling us to produce exceptional performances – our theatres and offices at Covent Garden, our production workshop at Thurrock and our storage facility at Aberdare.

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THE ROYAL OPERA

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.



WORK FOR US – EVERYONE IS WELCOME

We want many more people to enjoy and engage with exceptional ballet and opera.

We believe diversity is about making sure we can attract and develop talented people who bring more because of their different backgrounds, experiences, cultures and outlooks.

Recruiting and working with these talented people is just part of the work. We are committed to creating an environment where everyone believes they belong and can do their best work.

We operate a fair and open recruitment and selection process. Every role is open to all sections of society and we welcome your application, regardless of your sex, race, religion or belief, ethnic origin, different physical ability, age, gender identity or sexual orientation.

We particularly welcome applications from those who are from a global majority background and/or those who are disabled, as they are under-represented within the Royal Opera House. As a Disability Confident employer, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the essential minimum criteria for our vacancies.

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ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

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 repertory 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.

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ROYAL OPERA CHORUS AUDITIONS

1st TENOR - 2 positions available

1st BASS (Baritone) – 1 position available

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

We are seeking applications from suitably experienced singers.

HOW TO APPLY

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.

We're committed to anonymous shortlisting and all applications are reviewed on their own merit. For this reason, we don't accept CVs. Applications must be made via our website. Follow the link at the bottom of the job description webpage to make your application. [Find out more.](#)

If you have any questions or require any reasonable adjustments to the application process, please [contact the ROH Recruitment Team.](#)

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APPLICATION GUIDANCE

In the application process you will be asked for an overview of your:

- **Relevant qualifications**
- **Relevant training and professional memberships**
- **Employment History**

You will also be asked to provide answers to the following shortlisting criteria:

- **Please list 3 to 5 of your most significant appearances as operatic soloist.**
- **Please state 3 to 5 of your most significant engagements as opera chorister.**

Answers should be provided concisely in bullet point format, consisting of no more than 100 words.

You will also have a chance to add any additional information to support your application (no more than 250 words). Please use this section to outline anything not covered in the above shortlisting questions, employment history, training and relevant qualification section.



WHAT DOES THE AUDITION PROCESS INVOLVE?

Auditions will be split into two rounds

FIRST ROUND AUDITIONS

18 March-12 April 2024

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

- Two opera arias, contrasting in style and language
- Two chorus passages from a list of six 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.*

SECOND ROUND AUDITIONS

24 April-03 May 2024

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

- Two non-English language 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 an acting element for all participants, guided on the day.
- There will be a sight –reading exercise for all participants.

WORKING WITH US – BENEFITS

- Membership of the ROH Pension scheme
- Staff offers on performance tickets and access to general rehearsals
- Subsidised canteen and coffee bar
- Interest free season ticket loan once you have passed your probation and onsite spaces for secure cycle storage, subject to availability
- Cycle to Work Scheme
- Family Friendly policies
- Access to our Employee Assistance Programme providing 24 hour advice and counselling services
- Access to the ROH Benevolent Fund, providing confidential support and assistance
- Special arrangements for Healthcare including a health cash plan for employees and healthcare support for performers
- Discounts on alternative and physical therapies provided in-house
- Discounted staff ballet, Pilates and yoga classes



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- £44,844.36 per annum paid via monthly payroll on a PAYE basis
- Full-time permanent position (38 hours per week averaged over the Season) with a probationary period of 9 months
- Start date: Monday 26th August 2024
- 5 weeks' summer holiday, and one-week mid-season break, designated by the Royal Opera
- Regular Choristers can apply for paid Additional Engagements with the Royal Opera as they arise
- Many Small Parts and Cover roles are auditioned within our Regular Chorus for Royal Opera productions and are paid in addition to a choristers' salary
- Up to 12 NAs per season for professional engagements can be requested by Regular Choristers

You must have a UK passport or other valid work authorisation to work at the Royal Opera House.

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FAQs

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.

How 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 03 May. We hope to confirm the appointment of the successful applicant mid-late May 2024.

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.



“The ROH chorus combines world class excellence with a real sense of camaraderie.

Routinely working with the very best the world of opera has to offer and led by the super talented and indefatigable William Spaulding, there is seldom a dull day. Come and join the backbone of the ROH.”

**Thomas Barnard
Equity Representative
Royal Opera Chorus**

