



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** Section Principal Bassoon (Joint Section Principal)

**Reports to:** Orchestra Director

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### **Overall purpose of job:**

To lead the Bassoon 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. Sinfonia Smith Square is a partner organisation of the Royal Ballet and Opera (RBO) and players may wish to participate in joint artistic projects. Players may also have the opportunity to mentor young musicians as part of Overture: the mentorship programme of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

The Bassoon section comprises two Section Principals, one Sub Principal and a Principal Contrabassoon. The contract for this position is for 848 playing hours spread over a performing season of 47 or 48 weeks, and 5 weeks 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 Orchestra Management, play for a balance of Opera and Ballet productions throughout the RBO performing season in accordance with the terms of the orchestra's lock – in policy.
- To divide work equally with the other Section Principal and play for at least two productions conducted by the Music Directors in each season.

- On occasion, appear as part of a stage band for RBO 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 Orchestra Director on any personnel and contractual matters pertaining to the section
- To act as a proactive team leader who builds positive and supportive relationships with the members of the section. To lead and motivate them by example to perform to the highest standards at all times.
- To work in close collaboration with the other Section Principals in the orchestra.
- To 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 formal 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 (RBO can provide support in obtaining this if necessary)

### **Personal Skills**

- Commitment to delivering and maintaining a very high standard of work
- Good communication skills and an ability to understand and to converse in English
- Ability to lead, motivate and work collaboratively – to provide artistic direction and to inspire the section and members of the wider orchestra
- To support and develop positive working relationships with conductors, freelancers and all members of the orchestra.

### **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 is required to own an instrument which is suitable for the role.

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