

PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR



Application Pack

Post	Principal Conductor, Lambeth Orchestra
Salary	A professional fee is offered, in line with Making Music and MU Guidelines
Job type	Weekly evening Thursday rehearsals with 5 or 6 concert per season (Sept – July)
Starting	Trials across 2020-21 season. Final Appointment anticipated by Sept 2021
Location	Rehearsals take place at Wheatsheaf Hall, London and concerts at All Saints Church West Dulwich
To Apply	Please send CV and covering letter to lambethorchestra@gmail.com by 9am on Monday 4th November 2019. Please include the names and contact details of two referees who are in a position to comment on you professionally, with a brief indication of how long and in what capacity they have known you (referees will not be contacted before interview).
Shortlist notification	From Monday 2 nd December 2019
Interviews	Saturday 18th January 2020
Notification	We regret we are unable to acknowledge receipt of applications. If you have not heard from us within two weeks of the closing date, please assume your application has not been successful on this occasion.
Equal Opportunities	Lambeth Orchestra is committed to diversity and equality of opportunity in all working practices. We warmly welcome applications from all sectors of the community and all kinds of individuals. Please let us know if you need this job information - or would like to apply for the job - in a different format.

Introduction

The Lambeth Orchestra (LO) was founded in 1972 and has flourished under the baton of Christopher Fifield since 1982. It is one of London's foremost amateur orchestras, performing up to six concerts a year with 70+ players. The orchestra attracts and retains talented musicians, many of whom are music graduates. It is unusual in often having over-subscribed string sections, frequently exceeding 6 desks per section, including 4 regular double bass players. There are competitive try-outs for wind and brass seats on the rare occasions that they become vacant.

The orchestra has a professional conductor and a professional leader, Alan Thorogood, who has been with the orchestra since 2016. It has an enthusiastic and supportive committee, and the chair, manager and treasurer of the orchestra are professionals in the music world. A recent poll of players demonstrated high levels of satisfaction, both in terms of the standard of playing and the orchestra's sociable, welcoming nature.

Repertoire has ranged from the popular to the unusual, from established classics to world premieres of commissioned pieces. A careful balance is sought over the year to ensure that both audience attendance and player engagement remains high.

The orchestra is dedicated to supporting emerging new talent, as well as enjoying many opportunities to play with well-established soloists, such as Tasmin Little, Joanna MacGregor, Jamie Walton and Piers Lane, who joins them again in October 2019.

More detailed information about Lambeth Orchestra can be found on our website, www.lambeth-orchestra.org.uk

Rehearsals

LO rehearses every Thursday evening during school term time at Wheatsheaf Community Hall, Vauxhall, between 19:30 and 22:00. We try to schedule our rehearsals so that we break during the local half term holidays and the main school holidays.

Rehearsal venue:

Wheatsheaf Community Hall
Wheatsheaf Lane (*off South Lambeth Road*)
London
SW8 2UP

Our terms for 2019/20 will run between the following dates:

Autumn term: 12 September – 12 December

Spring term: 9 January – 26 March

Summer term: 2 April – 25 June

We also have a rehearsal on the concert day at the concert venue, either in the morning or afternoon.

Concerts and Venues

The Lambeth Orchestra season runs between September and July every year. Lambeth generally play 5 or 6 concerts per year – usually in October, December, February, March/April, May and June/July. The orchestra is also externally booked once or twice a year for choral societies, either in London or in recent years, Snape Maltings, Suffolk.

Our main concert venue is:

All Saints Church, West Dulwich
Lovelace Rd
London
SE21 8JY

All concerts for the 2019/20 season have been confirmed.

Management of the Orchestra

Lambeth Orchestra is managed by a committee comprising of members of the orchestra elected each year and is governed by its constitution. The conductor is an *ex officio* member of the committee.

Repertoire

Lambeth Orchestra aims to provide a broad and varied repertoire to challenge members and engage with their audience. We are renowned for performing lesser known works, but also large-scale symphonic works and bi-annually semi-staged operas.

The repertoire is selected by the LO committee, working with the conductor, leader and section leaders as well as taking into account the views of the membership of the orchestra. Programming and scheduling for the next concert season is normally finalised by the end of the current season in July.

Principal Conductor – Job Description

This document describes the duties and responsibilities of the Conductor of the Lambeth Orchestra (LO) for the duration of his/her employment with the orchestra. This job description may be changed from time to time as deemed necessary to meet the requirements of the orchestra.

Specific duties:

- To conduct five or six public concerts per year, in agreement with the committee. These will usually be in October, December, February, March/April, May and June/July. Performances are currently given on Saturday evenings at All Saints' Church, Lovelace Road, West Dulwich, SE21 8JY.
- The principal conductor should expect to attend all rehearsals per concert (typically 6), including some sectional rehearsals – and to arrange for a suitable deputy under exceptional circumstances if he/she cannot be available.
- Prepare for each rehearsal to ensure that a thorough approach is taken to the preparation of the music for each concert
- Agree in advance with the committee a detailed rehearsal schedule for each concert, taking into account players who may not be featured in all works
- Define musician requirements for specific programmes, and work with the committee to meet those requirements
- Work with nominated LO members and committee members in the preparation and staging of concerts
- Participate in promoting attendance at concerts and allow publicity activities for concerts such as (without limitation) photographs, interviews, audio and video recording of selected rehearsals and performances. These may also be used for social media
- Provide the orchestra with musical direction in order to develop the skills and abilities of its members and achieve the highest possible standards, while ensuring that rehearsals and concerts are an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.
- Help create a long-term vision for the development of the orchestra alongside the Committee
- In consultation with the committee, plan and agree the annual musical programme for the orchestra. This programme should balance challenge, enjoyment and musical development for all players, while also considering the practicalities of ability, budgets and audience appeal
- Help the committee to seek and provide opportunities for the orchestra to take part in different musical experiences either alongside or as part of the standard concert schedule
- Attend committee meetings when invited by the committee and to provide advice and recommendations on musical matters.
- Attend the orchestra's AGM and any other special meetings that may be called
- Work with the committee to ensure that the selection of soloists, costs for music, and other expenses remain within budget limitations

Terms and conditions of service

- The principal conductor is a contractor of the LO and not an employee.
- The appointment will be for three years in the first instance and renewable for fixed periods thereafter. There will be a review after the first year. The contract may be terminated by either party no fewer than three months' notice of their intention not to renew the contract.
- The fee consists of a per concert day fee plus a fee for each Thursday rehearsal at a fixed rate. It is not our policy to pay expenses for routine rehearsals and concerts. This is reviewed periodically in the light of the Orchestra's finances.

Person specification

We are looking for a conductor with proven ability to inspire and develop an amateur orchestra whose members are adults. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following skills, experience and characteristics:

Essential

- Excellent conducting technique with a track record of orchestral conducting experience
- Skills and ability to engage and motivate all sections of the orchestra and of all abilities
- Ability to make rehearsals and concerts a rewarding and enjoyable experience
- Extensive knowledge of and enthusiasm for broad repertoire
- Experience of working with and conducting professional concerto soloists
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build rapport with amateur performers
- Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with the leader and the LO committee
- Willingness to work with the committee to drive ideas about the future direction of the orchestra
- Reliability and commitment

Desirable

- Formal conducting training
- Significant, varied orchestral conducting experience at both amateur and professional level
- The ability to engage with audiences
- Contacts with potential soloists, both locally and nationally

Lambeth Orchestra is committed to diversity and equality of opportunity in all working practices.

Selection process

The selection will be in 4 phases:

a) A long list will be selected from anonymised written applications. We will select candidates for interview based on the Person Specification. Please ensure that your covering letter describes fully how your experience, knowledge and skills match our Person Specification.

b) Those long listed will be interviewed by a panel of orchestra members and the leader on **Saturday 18th January 2020** in a central London location

c) A short list will be invited to rehearse two pieces with the orchestra on any of the following dates: 27th February, 5th March or 12th March. Details (including work to be rehearsed) will be given in the invitation to successful interviewees. *Candidates should ensure that they are available for all these dates.*

d) The final list of conductors selected for a trial concert in the following season (2021-2022) will be taken by the committee on the recommendation of the selection panel, taking into account the skills areas listed in the person specification and the views of the orchestra members after the rehearsals in phase c) above.

Applications should be emailed to Lambethorchestra@gmail.com by 9am on **Monday 4th November 2019**. Due to the high level of applications anticipated, only those selected for interview will be contacted.