

# **Woodford Symphony Orchestra Conductor**

## **Job Description**

Woodford Symphony Orchestra is seeking to appoint a conductor from September 2020, with orchestral experience and the ability to enthuse and inspire an amateur orchestra to develop and achieve the highest possible musical standards.

Woodford Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1963. It is one of the leading amateur orchestras serving East London and South-West Essex. WSO is a small friendly amateur orchestra with around 25 members, performing a wide range of music including concertos with a variety of soloists, young professionals and local talent. For concerts the core membership is supplemented by the engagement of additional players, as required - primarily brass and percussion.

WSO rehearses on Thursday evenings between 7.45 pm and 9.45pm at Roding Valley High School, Loughton, Essex.

There are 8 rehearsals per term and a 3 hour rehearsal on the day of the concert.

The Orchestra performs 3 orchestral concerts a year held on a Saturday usually in the Great Hall of Roding Valley High School.

Members have participated in additional 'Ensemble Concerts' which have added to the Orchestra's range of live music events.

WSO is a registered charity (No. 803699) and a member of Making Music. It is managed by a committee which is elected by members at the AGM.

### **The Conductor of Woodford Symphony Orchestra will:-**

- Have the ability to provide musical direction to the Orchestra in a manner that makes rehearsals and concerts an enjoyable experience for all participants.
- Have a good knowledge of the classical repertoire and have the ability to prepare appropriately for rehearsals to make the best use of time.
- Be confident when working from a symphonic score.
- Be able to demonstrate attention to the details of performance such as phrasing, intonation and the wider interpretation of orchestral works.
- Will encourage section leaders to take responsibility for ensuring bowings and markings are in copies.
- To conduct all concerts as agreed with the Committee.
- To conduct all rehearsals and to work with the Orchestra's deputy conductor.
- To arrange a detailed rehearsal schedule for each term's concert.

### **The Conductor as an ex-officio member of the Orchestra's Committee will:-**

- Attend Orchestra Committee meetings – held once a term or as otherwise required.
- In consultation with the Committee agree the annual programme for the Orchestra.
- Provide input and advice on the musical programme with regard to the musical abilities of the members of the Orchestra and the appeal of the concert programme to the audience.
- Advise on the selection and engagement of soloists to perform with the Orchestra.
- Provide help and advice on matters related to the management of the Orchestra as requested by the Committee.
- Attend the AGM (or other meetings) in an honorary capacity and respond appropriately to issues raised by members of the Orchestra.

### **Contractual information and expectations**

- The conductor will not be an employee of the Orchestra but will be engaged on a self-employed basis with the expectation to account for their own income tax, VAT and Class 4 National Insurance contributions.
- The position will be offered on the understanding that the Conductor will be appointed for at least a year with a review after the second concert by the Committee but with the hope and expectation that this will be a longer term commitment.

### **Termination of the agreement will be on the following basis:-**

- Either party must provide not less than 6 months notice of their intention to not renew the agreement.
- Either party can terminate the agreement immediately if the other party commits any serious or permanent breach of the terms of the agreement.

### **Remuneration**

- The Conductor will be paid £80.00 for each rehearsal and £200.00 for the dress rehearsal on the day of the concert and concert itself.
- Remuneration will be reviewed periodically by the Committee.

### **Person specification**

#### **Essential**

- Recent experience of orchestral conducting
- Able to commit to a minimum of one season of conducting with a view to a longer commitment
- Good knowledge of the orchestral repertoire
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

- Able to work constructively with the Orchestra's Committee to manage an orchestra
- Evidence of efficient organisational and preparation skills
- Able to provide encouragement to and inspire players in all sections of the orchestra and to make rehearsals and concerts a rewarding experience
- Demonstrable ability to work well with amateur musicians in particular

### Desirable

- Formal conductor training
- Experience of conducting at both amateur and professional levels
- Interest in developing opportunities for music making in the London / Essex border
- Willing to establish contacts with other organisations involved in live music making such as local choirs

### Equal Opportunities

WSO is committed to fostering a positive culture where all members can flourish and develop musically and are treated without discrimination.

Application and interview process

- A CV and a letter of application outlining how the candidate fulfils criteria of the job specification
- Audition – to rehearse the Orchestra for 30 minutes at a Thursday rehearsal. Successful shortlisted candidates will be informed of the piece to be conducted when invited to attend the audition.
- Interview – conducted by members of the Committee

CV and letter of application to be emailed to the Leader

Rosemary Fitchett [leader@wsorchestra.org.uk](mailto:leader@wsorchestra.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications** - 5.00pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Auditions** to be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 between 7.45pm – 9.45 pm at Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill, Loughton, IG10 3JA.

**Interviews** to be held on the evening of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Venue and time to be confirmed.

For additional information email: [leader@wsorchestra.org.uk](mailto:leader@wsorchestra.org.uk)

Or visit [www.wsorchestra.org.uk](http://www.wsorchestra.org.uk)

WSO Committee.

6<sup>th</sup> March 2020