

Role Description

Leader Wymondham Symphony Orchestra (WSO)

Starting: By arrangement

After leading us very successfully for the past decade, Ceri Peterson will be stepping down from the role in July 2023.

We are looking for an outstanding, experienced and ambitious musician to take over the position on a long-term basis from September 2023 and to help the WSO through the next stage of its development.

The WSO

The WSO was founded in 1984 and is the premier orchestra in South Norfolk. Our Patron for many years was Malcolm Arnold who conducted the orchestra on many occasions.

We are a friendly group based in Wymondham of about 60, mostly non-professional, players from across the county. The orchestra attracts members of all ages, of ability from Grade 7 upwards, and provides them with the satisfaction of playing exciting and demanding works. We also welcome talented school-age players into our ranks to give them regular symphony orchestra experience. We have a few professional players in some sections and call on a range of specialists for concerts as needed.

Andrew Parnell, our Musical Director, has been with us for 20 years and leads most rehearsals. We were fortunate enough to keep a core group going during the Covid pandemic and have given 5 ticketed concerts since the beginning of 2022, highlights of which included the Brahms' Double Concerto in St Peter Mancroft, Norwich with soloists Juan Gonzalez and Ben Rogerson, and more recently a sell-out concert in Wymondham Abbey with Maria Willis as soloist in Elgar's Sea Pictures and Britten's Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes.

Our core repertoire is late Romantic / early 20th century symphonies and Franck, Brahms, Nielsen, Stanford and Vaughan Williams have all featured recently.

Our reputation enables us to attract professional soloists of the highest calibre and also encourages young talented soloists from Norfolk at the start of their careers to play a concerto with a full-sized symphony orchestra.

We perform 3-4 concerts a year in South Norfolk, mostly in Wymondham Abbey, and hold 9 - 10 rehearsals a term as well as Open Rehearsals and informal concerto evenings. These currently take place on Tuesday evenings during term time from 7.45pm to 9.45pm at the Central Hall, Back Lane, Wymondham, NR18 0QB.

Concerts usually take place on Saturday evenings at 7 pm in Wymondham Abbey with a dress rehearsal from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm in the afternoon. The concerts usually attract audiences of 150 – 200.

Our next concert is on July 1st and includes the Brahms' Violin Concerto (again with Juan Gonzalez), Dvorak's New World Symphony and a piece commissioned from our MD Andrew Parnell called Living Stones, composed in 2007 for the 900th Anniversary of the Abbey.

Your responsibilities

- Lead the orchestra in an engaging, confident and skilful way;
- Give guidance to the string section as a whole
- Work constructively in close collaboration with the Musical Director throughout the term to achieve the highest possible standards;
- Work constructively in close collaboration with the Committee and attend meetings as required;
- Work constructively in close collaboration with the other string section leaders;
- Prepare a seating plan for the first and second violins (typically 10-12 players each) at the start of each term, rotating players periodically for the purposes of creating a fair environment for all and achieving the best possible sound within your section;
- Encourage commitment, enthusiasm and confidence from the string section as a whole;
- Foster a welcoming environment, encouraging dialogue and treating all members with respect and courtesy;
- Take a string sectional rehearsal as required, usually twice a term;
- Mark a copy of the upper string parts with suitable bowing in the early part of each term
- Provide a deputy, in consultation with the Musical Director and/or the Chairperson, if you are unable to attend a rehearsal because of illness or any other unavoidable cause.
- Play orchestral solos as required.

Commitment

- You are expected to lead all the planned rehearsals and concerts;

Your profile

- Recognised advanced qualification in violin performance;
- Considerable experience as an orchestral player and, ideally, previous experience as a (section) leader;
- Enthusiastic, friendly and engaging with strong coaching skills.

Terms and conditions

We are a charity and the role is unpaid, but a small honorarium is available at the discretion of the trustees. The Leader would not be expected to pay subscriptions but would be a full regular member of the orchestra.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for this position, or would like an informal chat, please contact our Chairperson, Andrew Naylor on wymondham.orchestra@gmail.com , before 16th June 2023.

More details of the orchestra are on our website www.wymondhamsymphonyorchestra.org.uk or on our FB page. Previous concerts can be found on our booking page, www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/wso

Candidates will be asked for a CV with covering statement, and will be invited to lead part of a rehearsal.

Wymondham Symphony Orchestra is committed to promoting equal opportunities in all aspects of its work, and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified and experienced applicants irrespective of gender, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality and marital status, responsibility for dependents, religion or age.

Closing Date: 16th June 2023