

Job Description

Principal Conductor, St Albans Symphony Orchestra

The Principal Conductor is responsible for the preparation and performance of all the orchestra's concerts. In collaboration with the orchestra's leader, she or he will also oversee the orchestra's musical and technical development, seeking to maintain and enhance a high standard of performance. SASO's season runs between September and mid-July.

Specific duties are to:

- Rehearse and conduct a season of up to five concerts a year, including New Year (1st or 2nd January).
- Rehearse and conduct the orchestra's children's concerts (currently held on a Sunday in October), an annual orchestral workshop (Friday evening / Saturday) and an informal, end of season, 'Concerto Evening'.
- Rehearse the orchestra weekly on a Wednesday evening (7.30pm to 10pm) in St Albans – unless alternative arrangements have been agreed, such as for school holidays, sectional rehearsals, and occasional repertoire evenings with a guest conductor.
- Rehearse the orchestra in the autumn of 2017 and every two years thereafter for a choral concert organised by the St Albans St Cecilia Festival Society, of which SASO is a member. Responsibility for conducting the concert (and some choral rehearsals) rotates between four member organisations and will next fall to SASO in 2021.
- Attend four meetings of the SASO committee each season (normally held on Sundays).
- Make repertoire recommendations and advise on concert planning and all other matters relating to the administration of the orchestra.
- Attend SASO's Annual General Meeting in the autumn of each year (usually incorporated into a rehearsal) and present a formal report on its musical progress.
- Participate in auditioning and the appointment of the orchestra's section principals when vacancies occur.
- Contribute to occasional 'open rehearsals' for the Friends of SASO and other regular supporters by not only conducting, but also introducing some of the music being performed.

Job requirements

Essential

- Evidence of qualified musicianship and significant previous experience of conducting symphonic repertoire to a high standard.
- Ability to motivate non-professional players to achieve a high standard of performance and enjoyment of music-making.
- A wide-ranging knowledge of the symphonic repertoire and its technical and musical requirements.

Desirable:

- Previous experience working with reputable amateur and semi-professional orchestras.
- Significant experience as an orchestral instrumentalist.
- Good speaking skills, including the ability to address audiences when required (for example, at New Year) and communicate entertainingly and successfully with (primary-age) children.
- Good contacts with professional musicians, including singers, that the orchestra may wish to engage as soloists.
- A knowledge of external funding sources and experience of making grant applications.

Terms and remuneration

Following her or his appointment, the Principal Conductor's contract will be subject to review and confirmation in January 2017. Thereafter, it will be subject to renewal each autumn at the orchestra's Annual General Meeting.

SASO's payment terms for the 2015/16 season are:

- £105 per weekly rehearsal (prior to concert day)
- £420 per concert (including rehearsal on the day).

All subject to annual review.

Statement on equal opportunities

St Albans Symphony Orchestra welcomes applications from suitably qualified musicians regardless of age, gender, race, religion/belief, sexual identity or disability.