



## Appointment of conductor 2022

Dulwich Symphony Orchestra (DSO) invites applications from suitably qualified orchestral conductors to become its new conductor/music director. The post is vacant following the resignation of Leigh O'Hara, who has worked with the orchestra since 2010 and has been our regular conductor since 2014. Leigh's final concert with the orchestra will be on 4 December this year.

The Dulwich Symphony Orchestra aims to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in its membership, appointments and repertoire. We welcome especially applications from people of Black, Asian or ethnically diverse backgrounds and from women conductors.

### About DSO

DSO is a community orchestra and was established in 1951. Our members are largely (but not exclusively) drawn from Dulwich and neighbouring parts of South London. We are amateurs who aspire to a high standard of performance. DSO's professional leader, Paula Tysall, has led the orchestra since 1997.

DSO is a charity whose Trustees constitute the orchestra committee which is responsible for the administration and financial well-being of the orchestra. Funding is derived from members' subscriptions and ticket sales. The conductor advises the committee on musical matters and, taking into account the views of members, recommends what we should play.

DSO regularly performs three times a year, in March/April, June/July and November/December. Concert dates have already been set for 26 March, 2 July and 3 December 2022. Our regular concert venue is All Saints Church, West Dulwich. There are up to ten weekly rehearsals per concert which take place between 7.30-9.30 pm on Tuesday evenings in the Holst hall, James Allen's Girls' School, East Dulwich. Rehearsals may include sectional rehearsals.

The DSO's repertoire has been the standard 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century orchestral repertoire. Recent highlights include Shostakovich's 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony, Holst's Planets Suite, Florence Price's 3<sup>rd</sup> Symphony and Brahms' German Requiem. Details of past concerts can be found at <http://www.dulwichsymphonyorchestra.org.uk/archives>. We are keen to broaden the repertoire to include works by a diverse range of composers and to perform contemporary works. We have also played works by local composers.

DSO would like to increase its community involvement and to engage with local musical education activities. We have a small bequest which was given in order to facilitate work with local state school students.

## Job Description

The conductor shall

- Conduct at least three concerts per year
- Take up to ten rehearsals per term
- Advise the committee on musical matters, including the development of the orchestra
- In consultation with the committee, choose programmes
- Advise the committee on the selection of soloists and (for choral works) choirs
- Propose a programme for community engagement, including the use of the education fund

## Terms and conditions

The appointment is by means of a contract for services. The contract will not specify a date for renewal, but there will be a period of notice of one term (ie ca. 3 months) on either side.

The fees offered are:

Per weekly rehearsal: £110

Per concert day (including afternoon rehearsal and concert): £500

The fees will be subject to review annually.

The successful candidate will be expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts, subject to exceptional reason for absence, in which case the conductor will be responsible for identifying a suitable deputy.

## Person Specification

The successful candidate will be able to

- conduct and develop an amateur orchestra with vision
- select enjoyable, challenging and attractive programmes which engage members and audiences.
- deploy good interpersonal skills in working with orchestral players and soloists
- engage with the local community
- build audiences
- promote diversity and inclusion in everything the orchestra does

## How we will consider applications

Applications will be assessed by the DSO committee and ranked according to the strength of evidence relating to the person specification.

The three candidates who we consider to be best qualified will each be invited to act as DSO's conductor for a term in 2022. The repertoire for each concert will be proposed by the committee and discussed with the shortlisted candidates. Our aim is to achieve some equivalence between the programmes in order to make a fair comparison.

After the three concerts, the members of the orchestra will choose their preferred candidate, the result to be made known in December 2022. The successful candidate will be appointed by contract from January 2023.

## How to apply

Applicants should submit a CV with a covering letter which explains how their skills and experience meet the person specification. There is no application form. Applicants are *not* expected to submit videos, recordings etc. and these will not be considered in assessing applications.

Applications should be submitted by email to [conductor2022@dulwichsymphonyorchestra.org.uk](mailto:conductor2022@dulwichsymphonyorchestra.org.uk).

The closing date for applications is **Friday 15 October 2021**.

DSO  
14 September 2021