

# Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Emerging Musicians Fellowship 2026-27

## Application Pack



## What is Liverpool Philharmonic?

**Liverpool Philharmonic enhances and transforms lives through music.**

We inspire, entertain and engage people of all ages and backgrounds through music. We bring together artists, audiences and communities in shared experiences that uplift the human spirit and transform people's lives.

We aim to make a valued contribution to the prosperity and wellbeing of the people of Liverpool City Region and to be recognised nationally and internationally as a leading music organisation with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at its heart.

We are central to Liverpool's cultural offering, being one of the largest cultural organisations in the city. As well as our work in Liverpool, our Orchestra represents the city with performances and broadcasts across the UK and around the world.

**Liverpool Philharmonic is committed to diversity and inclusion**

We work hard to reach right across our community through our learning work and concert programme. We attract world class artists to perform at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and our second venue, Music Room, with a diverse programme ranging from classical, contemporary, rock, pop, folk, roots, and jazz to comedy, film and spoken word. We work with many organisations and cultural partners in the city to ensure that the artists and performances we put on stage, & the audiences we attract, truly represent our community.

And we are working hard to ensure that our workforce is as diverse as possible.

## What is the Emerging Musicians Fellowship?

**A paid development opportunity, offering early-career orchestral musicians an immersive experience of professional orchestral life, on and off the concert platform.**

In the 2026-27 season, four Fellowship Musicians will be welcomed into the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, undertaking five patches of work. The patches include induction, rehearsals, performances, training (musical and non-musical) and education work, spread across a season. Fellowship Musicians will rehearse and perform alongside Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra musicians as part of the orchestral schedule for three intensive patches lasting approximately one week each.

This paid opportunity will culminate in a final wrap week including an exit audition (to join our regular extras list, or for ongoing development), an intimate chamber performance programmed and performed alongside other Fellowship Musicians, and sessions around ongoing musical and professional development. The wrap week is also an opportunity to welcome the next cohort of Fellowship Musicians to the programme and grow the Alumni network.

### Fellowship Musicians will:

- Be partnered with a mentor from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. They will meet regularly throughout for guidance and support.
- Receive instrumental lessons with a musician from the Orchestra to develop their skills as an instrumentalist and an orchestral musician.
- Attend training on topics such as how to do a successful audition, how to liaise with orchestra managers, how to present CVs and how to manage a portfolio career.
- Have full access to the Liverpool Philharmonic Musicians Performance and Wellbeing Programme, including physiotherapy, sports massage, injury prevention screening, audiology, and performance psychology.
- Gain practical experience and receive tailor-made training based on their aims outside of orchestral performance, including experience within Learning programmes. Fellowship Musicians can also build knowledge in various areas of the organisation, for example the library, marketing, programming and fundraising.
- Become ambassadors of the Fellowship, representing Liverpool Philharmonic at a community, local, and national level during and after their Fellowship.
- Help in the ongoing evaluation of the Fellowship through meetings with Mentors, Fellowship Lead Musicians, and other Liverpool Philharmonic staff.

## Eligibility Criteria – what are we looking for?

We are recruiting for four Fellowship Musicians, limited in 2026-27 to the following instruments:

- **Strings:** Violin, Viola
- **Woodwind:** Flute, Piccolo, Bassoon, Contrabassoon
- **Brass:** French Horn, Trumpet
- **Percussion & Timpani**



We are looking for Fellowship Musicians who commit to our four values:

- Are striving towards **excellence** in their playing.
- **Ensemble** – are a team player, and able and willing to immerse themselves within Liverpool Philharmonic and all that we do.
- **Welcoming** – will be an ambassador for Liverpool Philharmonic in our communities, within the sector, and to future Fellowship Musicians.
- Must be able to demonstrate a desire for learning, personal development and a **passion for music**.

The programme is targeted at emerging orchestral musicians who are performing at the standard required to play in a professional orchestra, and *may* include those who are:

- in part- or full-time higher education with commitment to pursue orchestral music performance
- recently out of higher education but not yet established in an orchestral career
- considering a career change/move into orchestral work
- yet to establish an orchestral career

If you have had multiple trials or extensive professional extra work, this may not be the opportunity for you. This will be assessed in your initial application.

**Applicants should be aged 18+ on 30 September 2026. There is no upper age limit.**

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the right to work in the UK, and proof of this will be required prior to confirmation of places on the Fellowship.

## What is the time commitment?

Fellowship Musicians will attend a two-day induction in Liverpool on **11-12 June 2026**. Musicians must be available for these dates to undertake the Fellowship.

- There will then be three week-long patches spread between September 2026 and July 2027. These weeks will include a busy schedule of training, rehearsal and performance, so Fellowship Musicians will need to be fully available during these periods.
- We also ask that you make time ahead of the patches to practice your parts in order to get the most from the experience.
- The year will culminate in a three-day wrap week towards the end of the 2026-27 season, which will include the chamber performance.



Dates of the three patches and wrap week will be confirmed at the point of offer. Fellowship Musicians will be expected to commit to all dates in order to accept the place.

## What is the recruitment process?

### Round 1 – Application form and video audition

Candidates can apply in two simple steps:

- Record a video of your audition as per the guidelines listed below. Upload your video onto YouTube and share links with us on the application form. This video must have been recorded in the past 6 months. All audition requirements such as excerpts are available on our website.
- Complete an online application form, including a link to your video audition.

### Round 2 - Live auditions

If you are successful in your initial application and Round 1 video audition in, you will be invited to attend a live audition in Liverpool. Applicants will need to be available between 10am – 5pm on the audition day. Live auditions will include an individual audition plus a group workshop or sectional with musicians from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Provisional dates for these are as follows:

- **Friday 20 March 2026 (Percussion)**
- **Tuesday 31 March 2026 (Strings)**
- **Wednesday 1 April 2026 (Woodwind)**
- **Thursday 2 April 2026 (Brass)**

We will provide a travel contribution of up to £50 for each candidate attending Round 2 live auditions.

All audition requirements such as excerpts are available on our website. Round 2 auditions will include individual excerpts and solo repertoire, as well as excerpts to be played alongside Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra musicians.

## Positive Action

We acknowledge that our Orchestra and our industry is not fully reflective of the diverse society in which we live. Therefore, at Round 1, we are taking Positive Action to prioritise applications from emerging musicians from backgrounds that are currently underrepresented in UK orchestras.

Applicants will be asked to complete Equal Opportunities information as part of the application form. The information gathered on this form will be used to identify those with protected characteristics that are currently underrepresented in UK orchestras.

Where applicants declare a protected characteristic (race, gender, socio-economic status, disability, or sexual orientation) **and** meet all the required criteria at Round 1 (including performance and supplementary criteria), they will be guaranteed a live Round 2 audition.

## How to Apply (Round 1 video audition)

### Step 1 - Video Audition

Please record a video of your audition in accordance with the audition requirements for your chosen instrument. All audition requirements such as excerpts are available on our website.

#### Submission guidelines

- Your video recording must be performed 'as live' in one continuous take.
- Your video recording must be unedited.
- You must not use an external microphone or similar.
- You cannot use any technological equipment to support your audition such as headphones, monitors, microphones or other recording devices.
- Your video recording must be recorded on a mobile phone.
- Your video must have been recorded in the past 6 months.
- Repertoire must be performed in the order specified in the audition requirements excerpt booklet.
- Candidates must not speak during the recording.
- You & your instrument should be visible on camera.
- For the best sound quality, and where possible, recordings should be made **approximately 2-3m** from the recording device.
- The panel will only hear the audio of your submission. All recordings are private submissions and will only be listened to by the panel.



#### How to upload your digital submission

Please upload your video recording for pre-selection via YouTube. For instructions on how to upload your videos to YouTube, please see the links below:

[\(24\) How to upload videos with YouTube Studio \(Desktop\) - YouTube](#)

[Further information on how to upload videos with YouTube studio](#)

Once uploaded, please name your video using the following format: **Name - instrument**

To ensure your video is not public and cannot be seen by anyone that does not have the link, please select the option 'Unlisted' from the 'Visibility' list.

Please paste the URL link into your application form so the Audition Panel can view your video submission. Videos submitted using any other method will not be considered.

If you want to apply for more than one instrument combination and be considered separately for each (e.g. a separate application for **Flute and Piccolo with Flute**), please submit two completely separate applications and follow the audition requirements for each one. These will be considered as separate applications.

**Please do not attach more than one video audition to one application form, as only one will be considered.**

## Step 2 - Application Form

Please click [here](#) to complete your application form. **Applications will close at 12pm on Thursday 27 November 2025.**

In addition to the key information we require, you will be asked the following questions which you may like to consider before starting the application form:

- Please tell us about your orchestral experience to date. This should include whether you have undertaken any professional trials (providing details of where and when) and/or any professional extra/guest work to date. Don't worry if you haven't had much professional orchestral experience to date – this is not required for this opportunity. (200 words max)
- We are accepting entries from early-career orchestral musicians for whom this experience will significantly impact their career. Please tell us why you are applying for this opportunity and why you feel it is right for you at this stage in your career/development. (200 words max)
- Please tell us about any other musical experience or interests that you think would be relevant for us to consider – for example teaching, chamber performance, composition, participation and community work etc. (200 words max)

## Key Information

Fellowship Musicians will receive a fee of £2500 to cover the year of work with us. This will be paid in five equal instalments, paid after induction, after each patch of work. The fee is intended to cover the costs of your patches, including travel, accommodation, food and so on. Additional financial support can be provided where necessary.

This is not a full-time course nor is it employment, or considered equivalent to employment by Liverpool Philharmonic. Fellowship Musicians will be contracted as freelance musicians, solely for the duration of the patches of work in Liverpool. Fellowship Musicians must be able to demonstrate the right to work in the UK, and proof of this will be required prior to confirmation of places on the Fellowship.

### Timeline

Open for applications	30 September 2025 – 12pm on 27 November 2025
Shortlisting	December 2025 – January 2026
Invites issued to Round 2	February 2026 (candidates will receive a minimum of 4 weeks' notice of Round 2 audition date/time)
Round 2 Live Auditions	March – April 2026
Appointment of cohort	April – May 2026
Induction	June 2026
First patch of work	Autumn 2026