

PRINCIPAL BASSOON AUDITIONS PROCESS 2025

Stage 1: Application

Applicants are asked to complete the online portfolio (the same information that you would include in a CV) for the panel's consideration via Musical Chairs. Please be very careful that the information you provide contains no reference to your name, age or gender.

Application Option: Submit a Preliminary AV Recording to support your application.

Some applicants may be invited to submit an additional Preliminary AV recording of the first-round audition excerpts. This extra step will be at the discretion of the panel, to support a candidate's application for consideration of progression through to live auditions.

The three excerpts must be recorded in the same video, with no editing. Please see the document for recording instructions for further information on submitting a recording. The visual element of your recording will be removed for the panel to assess.

Stage 2: Auditions:

Candidates will either be invited to a first-round audition *or* direct to a second-round audition. Invitations to chamber round will be given after the second-round audition and held on the same day. Chamber round auditions are held in order to reduce the length and number of trials.

Auditions will be scheduled so that candidates will be required to attend on a single day.

Live audition Round 1 - Screened audition of 3 short excerpts:

Wagner - *Tannhäuser*, Overture

Smetana – *The Bartered Bride*, Overture (3 excerpts)

Mozart – *The Magic Flute*, Overture

Live Audition Round 2: Unscreened audition of set pieces and excerpts for bassoon and contrabassoon.

Candidates can be invited to this stage either directly from the application, or following a first round audition. First round extracts may be requested again.

Bassoon – Set Piece

Mozart – *Bassoon Concerto in Bb*, 1st movement (to recap, no cadenza)

Bassoon - prepared excerpts (continued over page)

Tchaikovsky – *Symphony No.4*, 2nd movement

Bizet - *Carmen*, Act 2 Entr'acte
Britten – *Peter Grimes* Sea Interludes, Interlude IV
Ravel - Bolero
Ravel – Piano Concerto in G, 3rd movement

Contrabassoon – Set Piece

J.S. Bach - Cello Suite No.1 BWV 1007, movements 5 & 6 (Menuet 1 & 2)

Contrabassoon - prepared excerpts

Ravel – *Mother Goose* Suite, 4th movement
R. Strauss – *Salome* (2 excerpts)
Beethoven – *Symphony No.5*, 4th movement

Live Audition Round 3 – chamber audition with members of the Orchestra of Opera North. Candidates will be invited to this round following a second round audition.

Devienne – *Duo No.4, Op.3*, 2nd movement (2nd part)

Ibert – *Cinq Pieces en Trio for Oboe, Clarinet & Bassoon*, No.4 (complete)

Candidates can download copies of the complete audition excerpts once you have started your application in musical chairs.

Candidates may nominate the day of auditions they are available for. Please note that chamber rounds will be held in the afternoon of the same day as a first and/or second round audition. The panel cannot guarantee alternate dates to those scheduled and advertised.

Stage 4: Trial

Following auditions, selected candidates will be invited to trial periods with the Orchestra of Opera North.