



ENO Mackerras Conducting Fellowship
2026 – 2028
Candidate Pack



PHILIP LOUBSER
FOUNDATION

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Your journey starts here...

André de Ridder - ENO Music Director Designate



Olivia Clarke - ENO Mackerras Alumni 2020 - 2023



Matthew Kofi Waldren- ENO Mackerras Alumni 2016 – 2018



Valentina Peleggi- ENO Mackerras Alumni 2018 - 2020



English National Opera exists for everyone, creating new experiences with opera that inspires, nurtures creativity and makes a difference. Our vision is for lives changed through opera.

We take a fresh inspiring approach to opera to reflect the diversity of our culture.

We believe that opera is a living art form able to connect to people from all parts of our society. We collaborate with a range of artists and art forms as part of our commitment to the future of the art form. We sing in English, as we believe it enhances the emotional connection between performers and audiences.

We encourage creativity throughout the company and our commitment to the future of opera provides a platform to develop outstanding careers.



We are a world-class national company recognised internationally for the standard of our work. We nurture talent across the entire company including a platform for young singers to start and then develop global careers.

We connect to audiences through inspiring, accessible, world-class opera and stimulating, creative participation programmes.

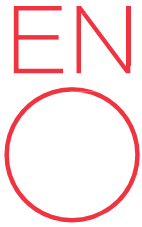
We create our productions for the widest possible audiences and aim to introduce completely new audiences to the magic of opera whether at the London Coliseum, outside of our theatrical home or internationally.

We make our productions accessible by offering a large proportion of tickets at affordable prices, and through our attendance schemes.



We work with a wide range of visiting companies to generate essential revenue and welcome new audiences to share the experience of our theatre.

**English National
Opera is founded
on the belief
that opera of
the highest
quality should
be accessible
to anyone.**



ENO MACKERRAS CONDUCTING FELLOWSHIP 2026 - 2028

The English National Opera (ENO) is delighted to invite applications for the seventh ENO Mackerras Fellowship, generously supported by the Philip Loubser Foundation.

Commencing in August 2026, the successful candidate will hold the Fellowship over a period of two years, covering the 2026/27 and 2027/28 ENO seasons, subject to annual review.

The Mackerras Conducting Fellowship started in 2012 and is a flexible, bespoke programme, which aims to support the development of the world-class conductors of the future, offering an intensive and immersive opportunity to work closely with the Company across all aspects of its operations.

The ENO Mackerras Fellowship is tailored specifically to the successful conductor, and includes (but is not limited to) the following:

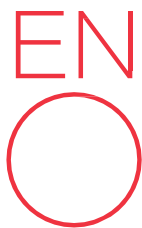
- Main Stage/Off-Main Stage opportunities to conduct the Chorus and Orchestra of ENO in concert and in ENO productions, based on the bespoke programme designed by ENO for the Fellow. Subject to programming
- Working as Assistant Conductor and Off-Stage Conductor for ENO Main Stage Productions.
- The Fellow will be fully immersed within the company, working closely with the Music Department, led by Music Director André de Ridder, alongside Head of Music Martin Fitzpatrick, gaining invaluable insights into the workings of a major opera company.
- Opportunities to build meaningful relationships with musicians, artists, and staff; deepen knowledge of opera; and expand professional networks.
- Mentorship and one-to-one sessions with ENO's Music Director, André de Ridder.
- Access to attend rehearsals and auditions across the company, where available.
- Opportunities to work with the ENO Engage department (Learning & Participation).
- Training and support in media and for applications to Trusts/Foundation/Ace.
- A programme of support, events and workshops with the Philip Loubser Foundation, including away-days with all of the Foundation's Fellows across multiple organisations

As a Fellow, you will receive:

- Training bursary (which may be tax-exempt, depending upon your circumstances) to support your living costs.
- Professional development allowance, enabling the Fellow to undertake training and/or visit external companies to enhance their skills.
- Fees for assisting and conducting contracts.

During the period of the Fellowship, outside engagements may be accepted with ENO's approval. ENO encourages the fellow to gain conducting experience and opportunities with outside organisations.





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The role

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We expect the successful candidate to be:

- Someone excited about the prospect of working at an innovative opera company, with accessibility at the heart of everything we do
- A gifted conductor, preferably with post-graduate music college education or equivalent.
- Proficient in English
- Committed to their own professional development, and willing to develop their knowledge, skills and experience
- Someone who may have already acted as a conductor/assistant conductor with a professional opera company or orchestra

Diversity at English National Opera

The ENO ambition is to achieve greater diverse representation and this forms part of our inclusion strategy which will continue to evolve and develop over time to reflect the society in which we operate in our work on stage, in our audiences and in our workplace. We welcome applications from everyone.

Who is eligible to apply?

This appointment is open to candidates worldwide. We will work with the successful candidate to secure their right to work in the UK if necessary.

ENO Music Director Designate, André de Ridder

"Sir Charles Mackerras remains one of the great figures in ENO's history, and it's an honour to continue his legacy by launching the first Mackerras Fellowship of my tenure. I had the privilege of meeting Sir Charles during my studies at the Royal Academy of Music where he gave masterclasses which had quite an impact on my own practice and thinking in music, and as a conductor.

Through an international search, we look forward to discovering an exceptional emerging conductor who will work alongside me and grow and learn at the level of artistic excellence required for this extraordinary opera company."

ENO Mackerras Fellow 2018-2020, Valentina Peleggi

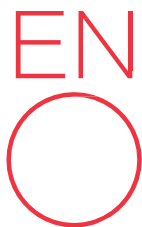
"Thanks to the Fellowship that he created specifically for young conductors, the Charles Mackerras Conducting Fellowship, I was able to spend two incredible years learning at the heart of the English National Opera, one of Europe's most innovative and renowned opera houses. It is of vital importance for a young conductor to have the opportunity to learn from inside an art organization, as well as to receive artistic and financial support and musical mentorship throughout this learning curve. The Mackerras Conducting Fellowship at the ENO has been a life-changing experience for me and I'll be forever grateful"

ENO Mackerras Fellow 2012-2014, Gergely Madaras

"Being the inaugural Charles Mackerras Fellow at English National Opera was a truly formative experience. It gave me the space to grow with confidence through assisting on numerous productions and taking part in their progress from first rehearsal to performance. I also had the rare opportunity to shadow every discipline within the extraordinary machinery of an opera house—from the music library and casting department to stage management. I learned from generous mentors and felt part of a community that nurtured my curiosity and supported my artistic voice, by even giving me the chance to make my professional operatic debut. It's an experience I wholeheartedly recommend to any aspiring young conductor on the cusp of launching their professional career."

Supported by the Philip Loubser Foundation

Please note that some personal details, such as your name, career history and country of residence may be shared with the Philip Loubser Foundation



About the Philip Loubser Foundation

The Philip Loubser Foundation was founded in The Netherlands in 1997 by Michael Loubser. Named in honour of his father who died in 1984.



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The objective of the Foundation is to support six Fellowships for Ballet, Opera, Music and Theatre and grow a community of Fellows.

In partnership with major Cultural Institutions, the Foundation participates in the career development of exceptional talent from across the arts spectrum. Its Fellowships are unique and prestigious, each commemorating a great artist, and each awarded by the Partnership Institutions. Recipients range from young emerging talents to mature established artists.

The scope of the Foundation is international. Fellows are from Mexico, Hungary, USA, UK, Ukraine, South Korea, China, Russia, Norway, India, Serbia, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Brazil, and Ireland.

Each summer this family of past and incumbent Fellows meet at a Gathering where creative ideas are discussed, and experiences shared. Previous guest speakers include Ivo van Hove, Edward Gardner and Janis Susskind. The PLF Gathering is a highlight of the calendar. A cross-disciplinary powerhouse.

The PLF has also launched a Signature Fund. A fund to provide support to Fellows who wish to embark on an approved career-enhancing project.

To find out more, visit <https://www.philiploubserfoundation.org/> and <https://plfprojects.com/>

Mackerras Conducting Fellowship

To Apply

This is a two-stage application process.

Stage One: Expression of Interest

Please submit:

- 1) A short biography (max 200 words)
- 2) CV with particular reference to most recent relevant work
- 3) A short explanation as to why you feel this is the right time in your career to apply for the ENO Mackerras Fellowship? (max 200 words)

Please email your Expression of Interest (as a PDF or Word document) to: workwithus@eno.org

Please also submit our anonymous [Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form](#).

Closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest: Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 5pm

Stage Two – Shortlisted Applicants

Shortlisted applicants from the Expression of Interest stage will be invited to submit a full application, including:

- 1) Completion of the full application form
- 2) Names of two references (music professionals)
- 3) A personal statement (max 500 words) outlining your aspirations for the Fellowship as well as telling us about a recent conducting experience that was important to you. What did you learn from it?
- 4) A video link to recent conducting work

Applicants will be notified whether they have been shortlisted for interview and audition. Successful candidates will be advised of audition repertoire.

Interview & Audition Dates

Selected candidates will be invited to audition, and must be available to attend the following:

- 1) Wednesday 18 March 2026: Interview and piano audition session with singers.
- 2) Thursday 19 March 2026: Orchestral audition session, with ENO Orchestra and singers



Confidentiality

Confidentiality is so important in this role and our policy is strict. All information concerning staff, patrons and other ENO business, the disclosure of which could be detrimental to the company, must be held in the strictest confidence and may not be divulged to any unauthorised person at any time.

Data Protection

Data Protection and adherence to GDPR is equally important. We therefore require that computer information should only be accessed if this has been authorised and is necessary as part of the postholder's work. You will need to be aware of the GDPR 8 key principals, and the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety is so important at ENO and we would expect that the postholder will be happy to undertake personal responsibility for safety as will be outlined in the ENO safety policy and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Equal Opportunities

Equal Opportunities is a given. We will expect the postholder to abide by ENO's policies on Equal Opportunities and Dignity at Work.

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct is sometimes assumed, but at ENO we will require the postholder to act in accordance with ENO's Code of Conduct whereby everyone shall be treated in a professional and courteous manner with full regard to the avoidance of discrimination, consistent with current equal opportunities employment legislation.



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