

opera north

Section Principal Percussion



Our purpose

Opera North's purpose is to create extraordinary experiences every day, using music and opera to entertain, engage, challenge and inspire.

Our people

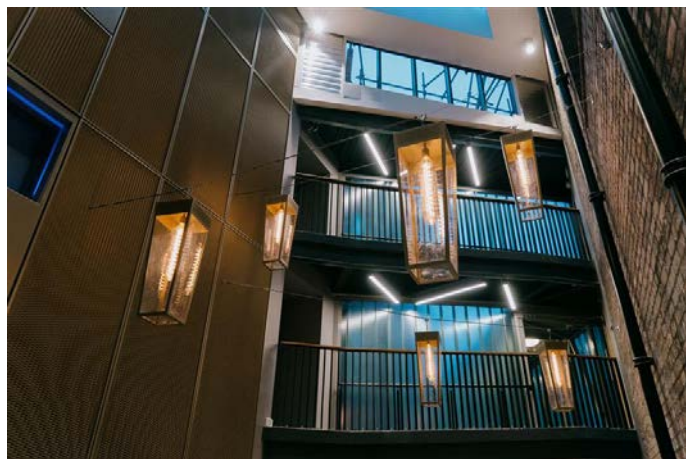
Working at Opera North you will be part of a company and group of people committed to fulfilling this purpose. Whatever role you take we will provide you with an induction plan that introduces you to your job and the team you'll be working in, as well as giving you the opportunity to meet colleagues across the company. Our success in delivering against our purpose will be built on the commitment, skills, diversity and well-being of the people who work at Opera North, and we will invest in training to develop our people both professionally and personally, because we believe this strengthens not only our company, but also the wider creative sector.





Our communities and audiences are part of us and we are part of them.

Our award-winning work tours to theatre stages and concert halls throughout the North and beyond



Who we are

Based in Leeds, rooted in the North of England and international in outlook, our award-winning work tours to theatre stages and concert halls throughout the North and beyond, including to London and major international festivals. Alongside touring opera, in Leeds we curate an eclectic artistic programme of gigs, concerts, spoken word and film in the Howard Assembly Room. We aim to make work that is bold, innovative and ambitious, always looking for new ways to share and create with audiences.

Music for everyone

Opera North believes opera and music is for everyone, and champions diversity in artists, repertoire and audiences. Through our Learning & Engagement team, the Company connects with communities and inspires each generation, aiming to enhance the health and well being of people in the cities, towns and villages where we work through arts participation and performance. In recognition of our work with refugee groups, Opera North holds the status of Theatre of Sanctuary.

A new home

In 2021 we moved into our new home, the Howard Opera Centre. It is a world class rehearsal facility for our orchestra, chorus and all the artists we work with, sharing the same building as our new education studio where everyone is welcome to learn about and make music. We have also created a modern flexible working environment for our staff and given our venue, the Howard Assembly Room, a new lease of life with a dedicated entrance and public spaces, together with restaurant and bar in the heart of Leeds.

Leeds as a capital of culture

Leeds is the only city in England outside of London to have a resident full time opera company, ballet and repertoire theatre as part of a diverse, collaborative and thriving cultural scene. That rich offer has been complemented by a growing tech sector. Surrounded by the stunning Yorkshire countryside including the Dales, Moors and North Sea coastline, Leeds is a fantastic place to live and work.

Main purpose of the job

The role of the Section Principal Percussion is to inspire your section musically and take responsibility for the overall artistic and musical quality of your section. In leading by example, you will act as an ambassador for the orchestra, creating a positive and supportive atmosphere, enabling everyone to perform to their best.

Position in organisation

- Reports to the Orchestra Management

Duties and key responsibilities

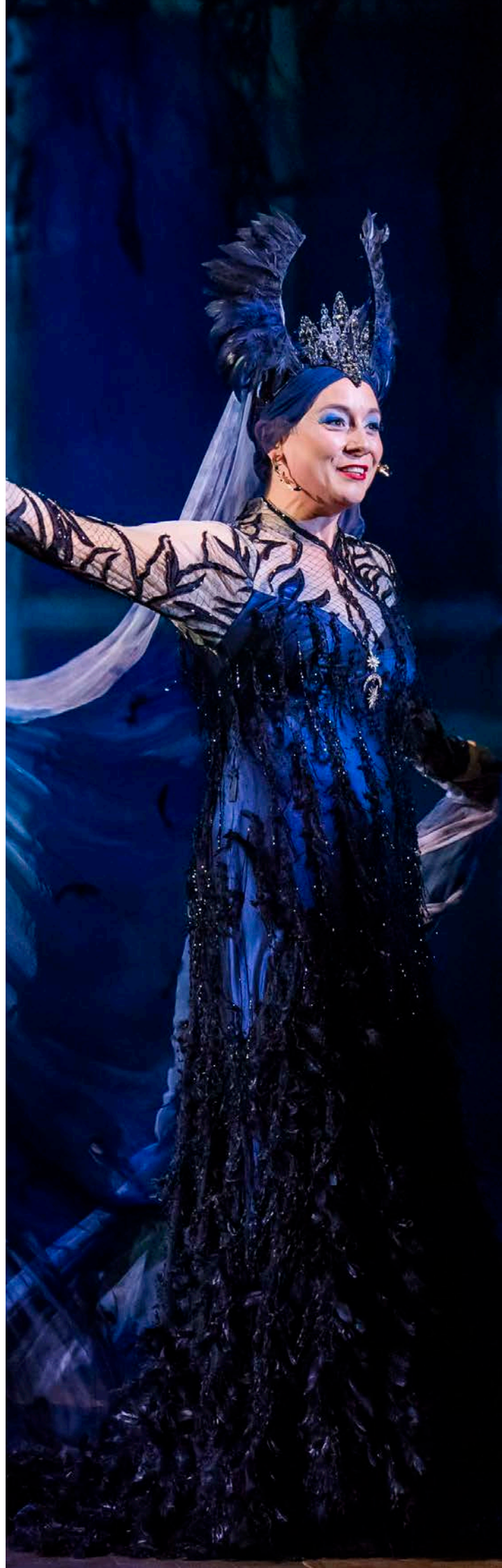
- To play percussion in rehearsals and performances and to maintain high levels of musical excellence across a diversity of programming. Including, but not limited to opera and song, symphonic works, chamber music and film music.
- To provide assistance to Leader, Section Principals, Music Director and Orchestra Management on matters related to musical or artistic performance within the Orchestra;
- To be available to tour the North of England and beyond as scheduled;
- To have oversight of all the percussion equipment that the Company owns and organise in conjunction with the orchestra management team, its maintenance.
- To work with Orchestra Management in timely manner to advise suitable extras and deputies for the section
- To prepare percussion inventory lists for each project, advise the orchestra operations team, and advise and source, in conjunction with the orchestra management team, any hires required
- In collaboration with the Orchestra Operations team, oversee and set up the percussion section for each project at each venue
- To support the Opera North Learning and Engagement initiatives with practical engagement and giving and receiving advice as necessary;
- To attend section and other meetings, as called by the Orchestra Management; and to partake in informal one-to-one meetings with Section Principals and / or Orchestra Management to discuss musical & artistic performance and proactively engage in training/ personal development;



- To contribute to the musical and artistic aspects of the Orchestra recruitment process by assisting with audition requirements and attending auditions as required;
- To engage meaningfully with discussions about seating and layout for both artistic and health and safety related considerations and work with the Leader, Section Principals and Orchestra Management in the resolution of issues pertaining to the Orchestra set-ups in all venues;
- To promote and support the Company's policies associated with the rehearsal and performance work-place duty - Health and Safety issues such as noise regulations and the Alcohol and Drugs Policy;
- To promote and support the Company's HR policies including Respect at Work and Conflict of Interest;
- To undertake any other duties as may reasonably be required within the level and scope of the post.

Additional responsibilities

- Attend performances – whether rehearsals or shows – to ensure a good understanding of the work of the company to inform the efficacy of campaigns.
- Some weekend or evening work as required.
- Any other duties as may reasonably be required within the level and scope of the post.
- Ensuring the highest standards of professional performance are maintained.
- Supporting and wherever possible contributing to equality, diversity and inclusion within the organisation.
- Taking reasonable care of your own health and safety and that of any person who may be affected by your acts or omissions, including following Opera North health and safety procedures and co-operating with the organisation on health and safety issues.
- Participating in arrangements for performance review and appraisal.
- Ensuring that professional skills are regularly updated through participation in learning and development activities.



Person specification

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| Qualifications: | Highly reputable training in classical music performance |
| Experience skills required: | Exceptional professional orchestral playing ability and musicianship, knowledge and experience of performing operatic, symphonic and chamber repertoire is desirable |
| Functional/ leadership competencies: | Must be able to demonstrate skills in leadership, collaboration, communication, and the ability to nurture professional interpersonal relationships with a diverse range of people. |

Terms and conditions

Contract type: Full-time, permanent

Salary: £44,719.50

Holiday entitlement: 33 days inclusive of 8 statutory holidays, per annum

Pension: Opera North will automatically enrol you into the company pension scheme upon appointment and after 3 months' service will contribute equivalent to 5.5% of your basic pay, should you meet the current legislative criteria. You will be required to make a personal contribution of 2.5% of your basic pay. We reserve the right to make future changes to our pension arrangements.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

We promote equity, diversity and inclusion in our workplace and make recruitment decisions by matching our needs with the skills and experience of the candidate. As we work to address underrepresentation in our workforce, we are particularly keen to hear from applicants from the global majority or those with other protected characteristics.

The successful candidate must have the right to work in the UK or be ready to obtain it.

General responsibilities of everyone who works for us:

- Represent the company values and purpose to create extraordinary experiences everyday
- Work collaboratively and co-operatively with all team members and take an active part in team meetings and discussions
- Be an ambassador for Opera North and follow our policies and procedures
- Play your part in ensuring that everyone who comes through our door is welcomed and treated with respect

How to apply

To apply for this role please submit your application and Preliminary Round AV audition via the job advert on Musical Chairs.

If you need any help completing your application including any adjustments to the application process, and if you are applying under the Disability Confident Committed scheme please contact appointments@operanorth.co.uk to make us aware.

Good luck with your application and we look forward to hearing from you.



Principal Partner



Major Education Supporter

