



**BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – PRINCIPAL BASSOON – APPLICATION PROCESS and instructions:**

*The BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA aims to make the appointment process for its orchestral vacancies inclusive, transparent and accessible to players at all stages in their careers.*

**Stage 1: Please complete the online application form by 24 February 2025**

*this will be redacted & anonymously shortlisted by members of the BBC SO Management Team.*

*Candidates will then be invited to **Stage 2, 3 or 4**, based on pre-determined criteria.*

- **Stage 2:** *Candidates who progress to Stage 2 are required to submit a short video audition consisting of orchestral excerpts (see below). The panel will hear the audio only. Successful candidates will progress to **Stage 3**.*
- **Stage 3:** *Candidates who evidence a significant level of relevant professional orchestral experience will progress directly to live audition. Auditions will be screened. Candidates who are successful at Stage 3 will then progress to **Stage 5**.*
- **Stage 4:** *Candidates who evidence an exceptional level of professional orchestral experience in equivalent positions will be invited for up to 2 patches of assessed guest work with the orchestra. If successful, candidates will be invited to perform a live audition to the panel (equivalent to **Stage 3**) at a mutually convenient time, and, if successful, will progress to **Stage 5**.*
- **Stage 5:** *Candidates will be invited for trial dates of work with the orchestra.*

**We will inform you of shortlisting decisions by 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

## **ADVANCE INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES INVITED TO STAGE 2 – VIDEO SUBMISSION**

Once invited to do so, please upload your pre-recorded audition by **17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

We will remove video for anonymity – the panel will only have access to your audio.

Please record the following excerpts in the listed order (booklet will be available from 10<sup>th</sup> February):

**MOZART: The Marriage of Figaro** (*Overture, bars 1-24, 101-123, 156-171*)

**MENDELSSOHN: Symphony No. 3** (*2<sup>nd</sup> movement, bars 193-213*)

**TCHAIKOVSKY: The Nutcracker** (*Act 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Tableau, bars 84-117*)

**BARBER: Violin Concerto** (*3<sup>rd</sup> movement: bars 90-101, 113-125, 144-147*)

**BERG: Violin Concerto** (*2<sup>nd</sup> movement, bars 23-43*)

### **Filming conditions:**

- You must not speak at any point during the recording
- No piano accompaniment
- Please submit the audition with video. Musical Chairs will automatically remove the video content.
- Single camera and single shot, preferably full length
- **Visibly no editing - include a clock in your picture (auditions found to have been edited may be excluded)**
- Audition must be in one continuous take, like a real audition
- Your audition video can be recorded using a smartphone camera or tablet. You do not need a professional grade camera.
- When recording your audition video, try to use a space without background noise.
- Position your equipment in front of a plain wall so that the main light source comes from behind the camera and that the image clearly shows your head, shoulders and torso.
- Do not stand too far away from the camera, or in front of a window
- Do not worry if the results feel a compromise; we understand you are not in a studio with professional recording equipment.

### **Recommended sound settings:**

- avoid very reverberant acoustics, whether natural or artificial
- Use a microphone that allows for a clear, undistorted recording. IF, an external microphone is used, no sound enhancing settings should be used, or added to your recording. The natural room acoustic must not be altered.
- The Audition Panel understands the circumstances and will judge your qualities as a player rather than the recording.

### **Which platforms/apps to use:**

Please upload your pre-recorded auditions onto your musicalchairs account.

### **BBC Symphony Orchestra Principal Bassoon**

The audition panel will hear your 1<sup>st</sup> round audition without video, in order to replicate the conditions of screened live auditions.

### **STAGE 3 : LIVE AUDITIONS**

For candidates who progress directly to STAGE 3, auditions are likely to be held in London on **April 7 2025**  
Auditions will be screened and an accompanist will be provided.

#### **Repertoire for live audition:**

**MOZART: Bassoon Concerto, K191** (*1<sup>st</sup> movement without cadenza*)

*An accompanist will be provided*

**Orchestral Excerpts: (Booklet will be available from 10<sup>th</sup> February)**

All of the above 1<sup>st</sup> round extracts (except The Marriage of Figaro Overture), plus:

**BEETHOVEN: Violin Concerto** (*2<sup>nd</sup> movement, bars 20-30*)

**SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 5** *1<sup>st</sup> movement, 5<sup>th</sup> bar of J to L*)

**SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No.10** (*4<sup>th</sup> movement, Fig 149-151*)

**MESSIAEN: Chronochromie** (*Fig 76 – Fig 83*)

**STRAVINSKY: The Rite of Spring** (*Opening to 3 bars after Fig. 3*)

**RAVEL: Piano Concerto in G** (*Fig. 9 to 3 before Fig.10*)

**The MOZART: Marriage of Figaro Overture extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> round will not be needed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round.**