



Co-Principal Viola Candidate Pack



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Your journey starts here...





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.

The award-winning ENO Orchestra is renowned for the versatility of its repertoire spanning four centuries, providing the musical landscape and emotion for all ENO productions.

As equally at home in the fun and sparkle of Gilbert and Sullivan as it is in Wagner's epic scores, it also brings to life the complexities and colours of contemporary operas including those by Birtwistle, John Adams, Tansy Davies, as well as musical theatre productions like *Sweeney Todd*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *My Fair Lady*.

With an established reputation for its Handel work, from pioneering performances with Charles Mackerras in the 1980s to new work with specialists like Laurence Cummings for the BBC Two broadcast of *Messiah* (Easter 2021), in recent years the Orchestra has also received praise for the stamina and commitment it brings to the operas of Philip Glass, including the award-winning productions of *Satyagraha* and *Akhnaten*.

Benefiting from the experience and passion of its players, the ENO Orchestra attracts some of the country's brightest talent. It actively seeks to train the next generation of players through the ENO Evolve scheme with the Royal College of Music; and support a new generation of conductors through the ENO Mackerras Fellowship.

It also seeks to inspire young people in its work with the ENO Engage department, welcoming schools to its dress rehearsals, playing and recording for educational projects and participating in workshops.





Co-Principal Viola

SUMMARY

We are looking for a dedicated musician to join the ENO orchestra in the position of Co-Principal Viola. This is a 7-month seasonal contract.

Reports to

Orchestra Manager

Salary

£34,136.98 per annum (option to be paid across 7 or 12 months depending on the successful candidate's preference)

Location

London and other locations as required.

Hours

In a typical week the Orchestra work up to 8 sessions on varying repertoire.

Co-Principal Viola

Person Specification

Required:

- Exceptional instrumental ability as a professional viola player with significant experience performing in a symphonic or opera orchestra
- Strong ensemble skills, with the ability to maintain artistic consistency across performances
- Experience or willingness to engage in Outreach (Engage), and Development activities as a representative of the Orchestra
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to collaborate across departments and with visiting artists and conductors
- Understanding of, and commitment to upholding, ENO's Values including equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace

Co-Principal Viola

To Apply

Please send the following to workwithus@eno.org:

- CV
- Covering letter (500 words maximum) detailing your interest and suitability for the role, details of your right to work status in the UK and your availability on the proposed audition dates

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

We're proud to be a Disability Confident Employer. If you'd like to apply through the Disability Confident Guaranteed Interview Scheme, please mention this in your cover letter and let us know of any reasonable adjustments you may need during the interview process.

Audition packs will be emailed to successful shortlisted applicants.

Please note that all applicants must have the right to work in the UK.

Application Deadline

10 am, Monday 9 February 2026

Auditions

w/c 16 & 23 March 2026



Backstage Secrets to Success

Read the job description carefully

The job description is your score and every note counts. This will help you understand whether the role is a good fit and what is required, so you can tailor your application effectively.

Read the application requirements carefully

Before your first act make sure you know your cues and stage directions. Check for any word limits, additional tasks, or submission deadlines.

Tailor your cover letter

Your cover letter is your aria- your chance to shine. Use this to tell us things that we can't see on your CV for example: why you want to work with us, how our values align with yours, and any transferable skills that make you a great fit for the role.

Check your application

Before submitting, review spelling and grammar, ensure attachments are included and correctly named, and double-check that your contact details are accurate and up to date. This is not a rehearsal. We repeat, this is not a rehearsal!

Prepare for your interview

Research the organisation, be ready to discuss experience mentioned on your CV, and think about questions you'd like to ask us. See the interview as a duet where each voice is equally as important.

Use AI tools mindfully

AI is a brilliant tool that's transforming how we work however, please ensure your application is honest and a true reflection of your experience. You can use AI to check grammar and spelling, improve structure and formatting, research the organisation or rehearse mock interviews but remember when the curtain rises, we want to see the real you in the spotlight.

Online interviews

If your interview is online, have a technical rehearsal. Check that the link works beforehand and make sure you have a quiet space, a good internet connection with minimal distractions.

In-person interviews

Confirm who you'll be meeting on the day, check your route in advance, and leave plenty of time in case of travel disruptions. This is your 5-minute call, you have 5 minutes.

Accessibility

We are an inclusive employer and want to ensure that our process is as accessible as possible. If you have any access requirements, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing us on workwithus@eno.org so that we can ensure that the stage is ready for your performance.



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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