



## National Symphony Orchestra

Section Leader French Horn

**Closing Date: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

### ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The National Symphony Orchestra has been at the centre of Ireland's cultural life for 75 years. Formerly the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, it was founded in 1948 as the Raidió Éireann Symphony Orchestra. In 2022, the Orchestra transferred from RTÉ to the remit of the National Concert Hall.

The NSO performs a season of over seventy events per annum at the National Concert Hall in Dublin as well as undertaking a touring programme, family concerts and a range of commercial opportunities. In addition, NSO produces broadcasts, film and audio recordings as well as educational concerts and events.

### AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR THE NATIONAL CONCERT HALL

The project, due to commence in 2026, will see the restoration and redevelopment of the historic building at the Earlsfort Terrace site. Crucially, it will deliver **the expansion of stage and seating capacity of the existing auditorium** while also providing much-needed universal access. The ambitious plans will see large parts of the site, many with buildings which pre-date the foundation of the State, restored and repurposed to provide for new recital and rehearsal spaces, new and restored public areas, and a new centre for Learning and Participation, among others. The project will see the restoration and redevelopment of over 16,000m<sup>2</sup> of the buildings at the National Concert Hall complex and the future-proofing of our National Cultural Institution for Music for generations to come. **A number of exciting permanent roles are being advertised as part of the redevelopment plan for the NSO.**

## THE POSITION

The National Symphony Orchestra is seeking to appoint a Section Leader French Horn.

The successful candidate will lead the Horn section of the NSO, providing the highest standard of orchestral playing and work in accordance with the NSO policy. Candidates should have significant orchestral experience and show evidence of excellence in performance to a high professional standard. The ideal candidate will be an exceptional player and demonstrate commitment to delivering a very high standard of work. The NSO will also consider candidates who are in the early stages of their career and can demonstrate potential to fulfil the role as required.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will:

### ESSENTIAL

- Demonstrate excellent professional orchestral and solo playing abilities
- Be able to contribute to performances that will meet the highest artistic standards
- Strong leadership skills including section management
- Demonstrate respect for others by being fully prepared and ready to play at the start of every session
- Demonstrate the ability to maintain composure when working under pressure
- High level of musical training

### DESIRABLE

- Have expertise in a broad range of musical & performance activities including chamber music, education and studio work
- Prior experience in Section Leader position

### PERSONAL SKILLS

- Excellent communication and organisational skills
- Self-motivated and able to work under pressure
- Strong leadership skills
- Ability to work co-operatively as part of a team
- Capable of developing positive working relationships with other members of the orchestra and the management team

## RECRUITMENT STAGES AND HOW TO APPLY

**STAGE 1: APPLICATION VIA ONLINE PROCESS (MUSICAL CHAIRS)** - All candidates are invited to complete an online application form on Musical Chairs and follow the steps as outlined in the advertisement before the deadline on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**When outlining any relevant orchestral experience on the application form, candidates should also include the following information:**

- **Repertoire performed**
- **Position within the section**

**STAGE 2: SHORTLISTING** - Your online submission will be anonymously assessed by the NSO shortlisting panel against pre-determined criteria. Successful candidates will be invited to attend a live audition.

**STAGE 3: AUDITION** - Candidates invited to attend a live audition will be sent a list of repertoire requirements (except pack and set works) to prepare in advance of audition. Candidates will be given no less than 6 weeks to prepare accordingly. Sight reading may also be required as part of your audition.

**STAGE 4: TRIAL** – Following the live audition, successful candidates will be invited to complete a trial period. During this period, you will have the opportunity to experience the inner workings of the NSO, ask questions and hear about the values and expectations of the Orchestra. We will offer a point of contact within the orchestra during your trial for support, and to give you an insight into the real-life experience of working in the NSO and living in Ireland.

**STAGE 5: PERMANENT CONTRACT** - If you are successful at trial, you will be offered a permanent position with the Orchestra subject to a **probation period of 9 months that may be extended to 12 months at the discretion of management.**

### FURTHER INFORMATION

#### Working Week

The standard working week applying to this role is 30 hours per week / 120 hours net per four-week period.

The NSO has a 7-day liability including weekends and public holidays and therefore flexibility is essential. There will be a requirement for the post holder to work in other locations outside of the National Concert Hall, Dublin in line with the redevelopment plan, due to commence in 2025.

#### Job Type

Fulltime (Liability commensurate with the development of the NSO)

**Annual Leave**

24 days scheduled by management.

**Pension Details:**

Single Public Sector Pension Scheme.

**Probation:**

The probationary period is 9 months which may be extended to 12 months at management discretion.

**Remuneration:**

The Section Leader Salary scale is as follows: **€55,847 - €65,501**.

**Please note that appointment will be made at the first point of the Section Leader salary scale (€55,847 per annum).**

For further details regarding the NSO please [click here](#)

*NCH are proud to be an inclusive, diverse and equal opportunity workplace. We are committed to equal employment opportunities regardless of Gender, Civil Status, Family Status, Sexual Orientation, Religion, Age, Disability, Race, Membership of the Traveller Community or any other characteristic protected by the Equality Act.*

