

National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales Cerddorfa a Chorws

Cenedlaethol Cymreig y BBC

Principal Tuba

Audition Booklet, November 2025

In order to apply for this position, Candidates will need to register on MusicalChairs and apply via the 'Apply via musicalchairs' button to complete a short information form. Candidates will then follow the below application and audition process: The deadline to complete the form on MusicalChairs is Monday 5th January 2026. Previous applicants are free to re-apply for this position.

The BBC National Orchestra of Wales aims to make the appointment process for its orchestral vacancies inclusive, transparent and accessible to players at all stages in their careers. Subject to operational capacity, all candidates who meet the minimum application criteria will have the opportunity to play to the panel and will be given a fair hearing according to the process below.

Minimum application criteria: completion of, or near completion of, reputable classical music training (e.g. a music degree or equivalent).

Stage 1: All candidates are invited to complete the online application form on Musical Chairs. This will be anonymously assessed by the BBC NOW Orchestra Management Team. Candidates will then progress to Stage 2 (depending on application numbers), 3 or 4, based on pre-determined criteria. Candidates who evidence on the online application form a significant level of professional orchestral experience will be invited to progress to Stage 3 and candidates who evidence an exceptional level of professional orchestral experience in equivalent positions will be invited to progress to **Stage 4**. All other candidates will progress to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Candidates who progress to Stage 2 are required to send a short video submission consisting of the Stage 2 excerpts – to be communicated to stage 2 applicants if required – as detailed in this booklet. The panel will hear the audio only. Successful candidates will be invited to progress to **Stage 3**.

Stage 3: Live audition; the requirements of this audition are laid out in this booklet and include the Vaughan Williams Tuba Concerto, with piano, 1st movement, excerpts, and sight reading. Live auditions will be held in one round and will be screened. Candidates will be expected to play bass tuba (in F or Eb), and contrabass tuba (in C or Bb) as appropriate. Candidates successful at Stage 3 will progress to Stage 5.

Stage 4: Candidates will be invited for a patch of assessed quest work in the orchestra in the relevant position. Candidates then may 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. Trial dates will include relevant sitting up, as appropriate and where necessary. Candidates will be assessed throughout the trial stage and feedback may be given/requested at any point in the trial. BBC NOW have the ambition that all trials will be completed in a timely manner, whilst ensuring opportunities for relevant candidates to demonstrate their skills across a broad range of repertoire.

Assessment criteria

Musicianship (to include musical understanding of works performed, approaches to style, phrasing, and harmony)

Technical accomplishment (to include intonation, rhythmic stability and accuracy, and clarity of articulation)

Live Audition Dates

We anticipate holding live auditions in Cardiff from February 2026 and audition dates will be communicated via MusicalChairs.

This role does not attract visa sponsorship. Candidates who are not able to evidence their right to work in the UK will not be considered for this role. It remains the candidate's responsibility:

- A) to ensure they can demonstrate they hold valid documentation proving their eligibility to working in the UK required throughout the recruitment process including any trial period(s) before an offer of employment.
- B) to ensure they can demonstrate they hold valid documentation proving their eligibility to commence the BBC role on the commencement date.

We will carry out right to work checks prior to any work taking place and reserve the right to cancel offers of work where right to work cannot be evidenced by the candidate.

If you have any access requirements for the audition, or require the materials in an alternative format, please email Nick Olsen, Assistant Orchestra Manager: nick.olsen@bbc.co.uk

AUDITION INFORMATION

Stage 3

Live auditions will be screened and there will be only 1 round.

Candidates will be expected to play bass tuba (in F or Eb), and contrabass tuba (in C or Bb) as appropriate.

Please prepare and perform the following:

Accompanied piece:

Vaughan Williams Tuba Concerto Movement 1

A pianist will be provided by BBC NOW, please do not bring your own pianist.

Orchestral Excerpts:

All excerpts in this booklet may be required for the live auditions

Sight reading:

Sight reading may also be required. This will be presented during the audition.

Excerpt List

All candidates will play:

Mahler Symphony 1: 3rd Movement

7 bars after fig 2 until 5 bars after fig 3 inclusive.

Berlioz Overture 'Le Corsaire'

Fig 5 for nine bars, & fourth bar of fig 12 until fig 13.

Wagner The Ride of the Valkyries

Fourth bar of fig 10 until fig 12.

Candidates may be asked to play further excerpts from the below list at the request of the panel:

Stravinsky Petrushka

Fig 100

Elgar Symphony no 2: 3rd movement

Fig 123 until fig 124, & four bars before fig 135 until the end

Nielsen Symphony no 4: 1st movement

Fig 10 until the eighth bar of fig 11, & second bar of fig 17 until fig 20

Walton Overture 'Portsmouth Point'

Fig 21 to fig 24 (as presented)

Berlioz 'Symphonie Fantastique' (Tuba 1)

4th movement: Fig 56 until sixth bar of fig 57

5th movement 11 bars before fig 63 until fig 63, & fig 66 until fig 68, & five bars

before fig 85 until fig 85

Wagner Prelude to 'Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg'

As presented

Price Symphony no 1, 'Juba Dance'

Bar 145-155 inclusive

Strauss 'Also Sprach Zarathustra' (Tuba 1)

Fifth bar of fig 16 for seven bars, & ninth bar of fig 50 until six bars before fig 51

Strauss 'Fin Heldenleben'

Fig 8 until fig 9, & fig 62 until fig 65, & one bar before fig 74 until fig 75.

Prokofiev Romeo and Juliet Suite 2

Fig 2 until fig 4, & fig 5 for four bars, & fourth bar of fig 49 until fig 51

Mahler Symphony no 5:

2nd Movement: six bars before fig 20 until two bars before fig 20, & fig 24 to fig 25,

& four bars from the end.

3rd movement, 13 bars before fig 16 until fig 17, & fig 25 until fig 26

Respighi 'Fountains of Rome'

Fig 11 until fig 14

Symphony 1: 3rd Movement 7 bars after fig 2 until 5 bars after fig 3 inclusive.



Berlioz

Overture 'Le Corsaire' Fig 5 for nine bars, & fourth bar of fig 12 until fig 13.



The Ride of the Valkyries Fourth bar of fig 10 until fig 12.

C.B.Tuba. III. Aufzug.



Stravinsky

Petrushka Fig 100

Tuba.

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Мишка медвъдь и мужикъ, играющій на дудкъ.

Bär und ein Mann die Schalmei blasend. | L'ours et un paysan jouant du chalumeau.



Symphony no 2: 3rd movement

Fig 123 untiJ fig 124

Four bars before fig 135 until the end

Excerpt 1:





Excerpt 1:







Berlioz

'Symphonie Fantastique' (Tuba 1)

4th movement: Fig 56 until sixth bar of fig 57 5th movement 11 bars before fig 63 until fig 63

5th movement fig 66 until fig 68

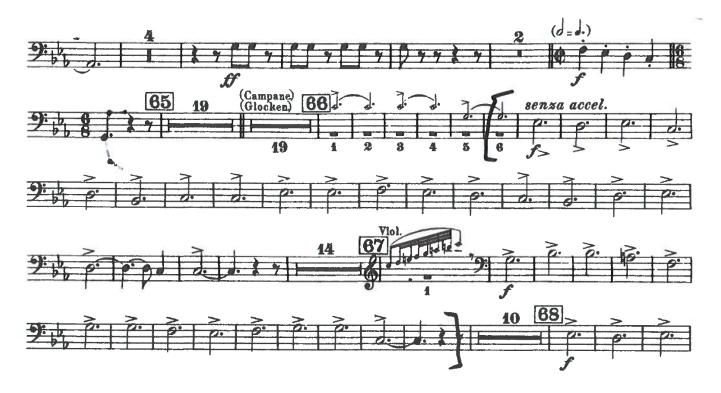
5th movement five bars before fig 85 until fig 85

Excerpt 1:





Excerpt 3:



Excerpt 4:



Moderato, sempre largamente e pesante.



Price Symphony no 1, 'Juba Dance' Bar 145-155 inclusive



Strauss

'Also Sprach Zarathustra' (Tuba 1)
Fifth bar of fig 16 for seven bars
Ninth bar of fig 50 until six bars before fig 51

Excerpt 1:





'Fin Heldenleben'

Fig 8 until fig 9, & fig 62 until fig 65, & one bar before fig 74 until fig 75.



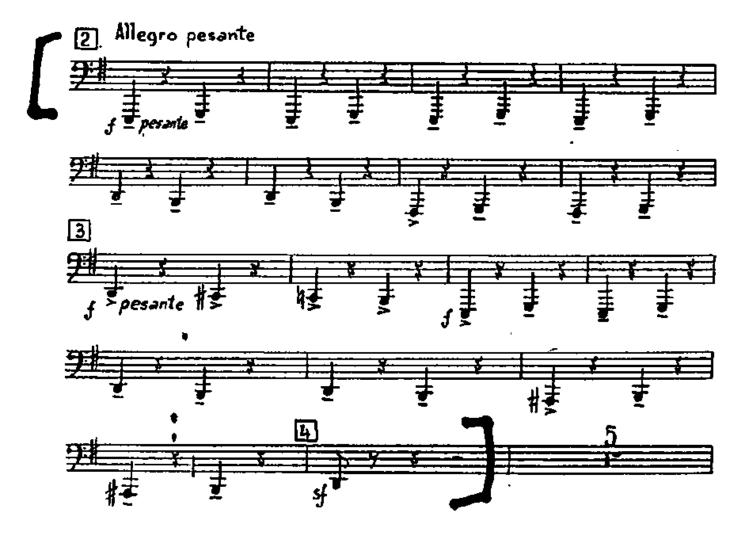
Prokofiev

Romeo and Juliet Suite 2

Fig 2 until fig 4 Fig 5 for four bars

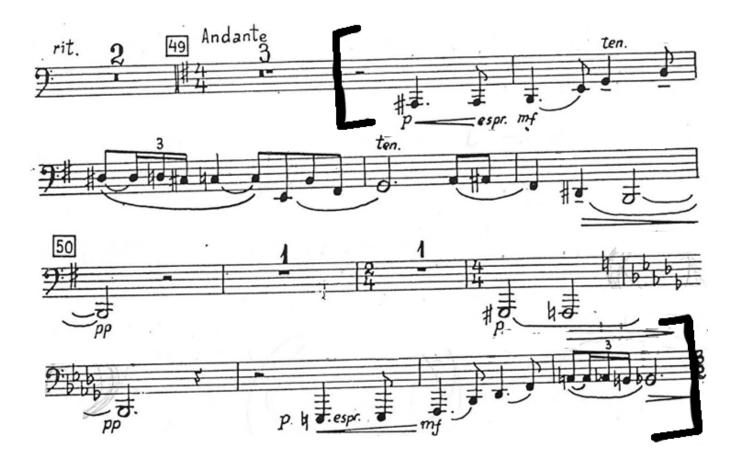
Fourth bar of fig 49 until fig 51

Excerpt 1:





Excerpt 3:



Mahler

Symphony no 5:

2nd Movement: six bars before fig 20 until two bars before fig 20

2nd movement: fig 24 to fig 25

2nd movement: four bars from the end – end. 3rd movement: 13 bars before fig 16 until fig 17

3rd movement: fig 25 until fig 26

Excerpt 1:





Mahler

Symphony no 5 (continued)

Excerpt 3:



Excerpt 4:



Excerpt 5:



La fontana di Trevi al meriggio.

