



CBSO City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

SUB-PRINCIPAL SECOND VIOLIN

TUTTI SECOND VIOLIN

The CBSO is seeking to appoint two positions to our Second Violin Section:

Sub-Principal Second Violin

The successful candidate will play as required by orchestration, sitting up to and including leading the section. This position rotates with two other sub-principal players for full orchestra repertoire, and there are opportunities for the successful candidate to lead small ensemble projects.

SALARY: £42,041 per annum

HOURS: 204 days per year

Tutti Second Violin

The successful candidate will play as required by orchestration, sitting up to and including No.3 in the section. This position rotates with other tutti players for full orchestra repertoire.

SALARY: £38,181 per annum

HOURS: 208 days per year

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 12:00 midday, Monday 1 September 2025



ABOUT THE CBSO

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) is the flagship of musical life in Birmingham and the West Midlands, and one of the world's great orchestras.

Resident at Symphony Hall in Birmingham, the orchestra performs over 150 concerts each year in Birmingham, the UK and around the world, playing music that ranges from classics to contemporary, film music to symphonic disco, and everything in between. With a far-reaching community programme and a family of choruses and ensembles, it is involved in every aspect of music-making in the Midlands. But at its centre is a team of 90 superb professional musicians, and more than 100-years of making great music in the heart of Birmingham.

That local tradition started with the orchestra's very first symphonic concert in 1920 – conducted by Sir Edward Elgar. Ever since then, through war, recessions, social change and civic renewal, the CBSO has been proud to be Birmingham's orchestra.

Under principal conductors including Adrian Boult, George Weldon, Andrzej Panufnik and Louis Frémaux, the CBSO won an artistic reputation that spread far beyond the Midlands. But it was when it discovered the young British conductor Simon Rattle in 1980 that the CBSO became internationally famous – and showed how the arts can help give a new sense of direction to a whole city.

Rattle's successors Sakari Oramo, Andris Nelsons and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla helped cement that global reputation and continued to build on the CBSO's tradition of flying the flag for Birmingham. Now, under the dynamic leadership of Kazuki Yamada, the CBSO continues to do what it does best – playing great music for the people of Birmingham, the Midlands, and beyond.



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

The CBSO offers a range of Continuous Professional Development opportunities for its musicians, which includes the opportunity to engage with the CBSO's Learning and Engagement Programme. The L&E programme works with a broad and diverse range of participants through projects in primary, secondary and special schools, care settings and community venues. We support talented young musicians through our partnership projects with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, the CBSO Youth Orchestra and side-by-side orchestra days. A variety of training opportunities are available for CBSO players to help support these projects.

CHAMBER MUSIC

There are extensive chamber music opportunities in our player-led Centre Stage series and small ensemble performances, performing to range of different audiences at the CBSO Centre and across the region.

INTERNATIONAL TOURING

The orchestra enjoys regular high-profile international touring as part of its varied schedule, making it one of the most globally active of the UK's regional orchestras. Recent international touring destinations have included the United States, Japan, and many of Europe's finest concert halls.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The CBSO is an equal opportunity organisation: we value diversity in our organisation and welcome applications from everyone. We consistently monitor our recruitment process to ensure that individuals are selected based on their relevant merits and abilities and receive equal treatment.

You will be welcomed at the CBSO and will find an inclusive environment where different views and experiences are valued, and everyone is able to be themselves. We recognise and understand the importance of diversity and inclusion and want our organisation to be representative of the audiences, people and communities we serve.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Candidates should have experience of performing in symphony orchestras and evidence through their application form of excellence in performance in a professional context.

The CBSO will also consider candidates who are in the early stages of their career and can clearly demonstrate their potential to fulfil the role.

The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate the following skills and experience:

Essential:

- Highly reputable classical music training
- Recent orchestral experience as a professional violinist
- Commitment to delivering a very high standard of work
- Excellent communication and organisational skills
- Self-motivated, reliable and able to work under pressure
- Ability to work co-operatively as part of a team
- Ability to develop positive working relationships including with other members of the orchestra and staff
- Respect for others demonstrated by being fully prepared to play at the start of every session
- Ability to understand and speak English

Desirable:

- Proven expertise in a broad range of musical and performance activities including education work and chamber music
- Considerable recent orchestral experience as a professional violinist



HOW TO APPLY

To apply to for this position, please complete the online application form below. Any queries should be sent to Chris Goodchild (Assistant Orchestra Manager) - cgoodchild@cbso.co.uk.

Please note that our shortlisting process is anonymous, so your application form will be redacted to remove any personal details. Please ensure your application form does not reference your name or personal details.

We ask that you complete the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Monitoring section of the online form when you submit your application. The information collected will be treated as confidential, used for statistical purposes only, and will not be treated as part of your application.

Link to application form: <https://forms.office.com/e/V5Ve68cWru>

RECRUITMENT TIMETABLE:

Application deadline: 12:00 midday, Monday 1 September 2025

Auditions: Wednesday 8 October, Friday 28 November, Monday 15 December

Both First and Second audition rounds will take place on the same day using a call back system.

QUERIES:

If you have any urgent queries, please contact Chris Goodchild (Assistant Orchestra Manager) - cgoodchild@cbso.co.uk



TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The contract allows for non-orchestral work to be delivered in contract whilst always prioritising the work in the orchestra.
- These positions are full time with a work commitment of 204 days (Sub-Principal) or 208 days (Tutti) per contract year.
- Salary £42,041 (Sub-Principal) or £38,181 (Tutti) per annum.
- There are thirty-five days paid holiday in addition the Public Holidays
- Membership of the Company's Group Stakeholder Pension Plan
- Various benefits for CBSO employees including, but not limited to:
 - An instrument loan fund (up to £5,000) at preferential rates of interest
 - A study fund offering players up to £250 per annum
 - Comprehensive instrument insurance
 - A comprehensive sickness scheme, with cover for long term sickness or permanent disability
 - Opportunity to join the employee-led CBSO Benevolent Fund.
- All CBSO employees are expected to adhere to all CBSO's policies
- Please see the [CBSO / MU Standard Contract](#) for full terms and conditions.

LOCATION: Birmingham

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