



Camerata360°

Ruth Sutton Fellowship Application Pack



2025-2026

Supported by the Ruth Sutton Trust for Music



Manchester Camerata

Manchester Camerata is the UK's most relentlessly pioneering orchestra. Our vision is for everyone's life to be elevated and enhanced by exceptional music. Our purpose is to make music that matters; music for change. This is who we are. This is what we do.

Through our music and our impact, we change the lives of people and the prospects of places. And we also reimagine what an orchestra can do – through debate, innovation, and craft. We show this not just through our actions, but also in the way that we work. Just as our namesake Florentine Camerata did in Renaissance Italy almost 500 years ago, we question, challenge, and celebrate what an orchestra can do.

We do not expect to find an 'answer' or an 'end point'. We will be relentless in following this path, continually setting new horizons of expectations for what a modern world-class orchestra can achieve.





Performance

Everything that we do begins with driving new standards of quality in performance. Be it opening Glastonbury festival in front of 40,000 people or touring Mozart in the most beautifully intimate concert halls or re-imagining classical music with electronic producers at the top of their game, we believe in great music regardless of genre and we present this to you at the highest level.

Recent performance highlights include a series of sell-out events at our home at The Monastery in Gorton. A collaboration with the Pet Shop Boys broadcast to over 319 million people world-wide as part of the MTV EMA's; performance with AFRODEUTSCHE, a British-born Ghanaian-Russian-German electronic producer for Manchester International Festival; working with incredible artists like Mezzo-Soprano Karen Cargill, or pianist Ethan David Loch. We're also incredibly proud of our work with our Artistic Partners such as a dance work in collaboration with the Aakash Odedra company, co-commissioned by us scored by our Artistic Partner Rushil Ranjan, as well as recording Vivaldi's Four Seasons for the Platoon label with our Artistic Partner Daniel Piro launched at Kings Place, London, in January.

Annual dates in our diary include festive shows with AMC Gospel Choir at Manchester's Albert Hall, Hacienda Classical shows at Castlefield Bowl and festivals across the UK, and the continuation of our award-winning Mozart, Made in Manchester series of concerts and recordings. We also tour internationally, with recent visits to the Baltics, Hungary and Italy.

We're passionate about the continued development of our craft. We will accelerate the pace of change in our sector by actively listening, responding, and reacting to our audience in Greater Manchester, and delivering a programme that belongs to them. We also see diversity as paramount in our sector — working with artists and communities that represent the entirety of our society.

Our orchestra is made of individuals, we encourage individuality and champion differences, believing that our organisation is greater than the sum of its parts.





Community

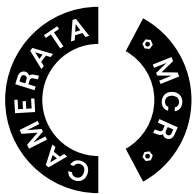
Our Music in Mind programme for people living with dementia is internationally renowned and sector-leading. In May 2024, we established the UK's first Centre of Excellence for Music and Dementia, enabling us to upscale impact, both regionally and nationally.

Our professional musicians, music therapists, and Music Champions provide 'in the moment' person-centred care for people living with dementia. They bring moments of joy, connection, true expression, and help enhance the well-being of all who attend.

We are proud of this work, telling stories of those affected – no more so than with the RPS Award winning film ['Untold – Keith'](#). Here we tell Keith's story of living with early onset dementia and the impact Music in Mind sessions make.

Our work with young people uses creativity to promote personal and social development within their lives, by creating new music on each project and making sure everyone's ideas are heard – and valued.

Whether for young people and teachers or for people with dementia and carers, we promote this pioneering work both nationally and globally through our concert activities and our community programmes. Working with local partners, we will deliver transformational programmes that change the lives of people and the prospects of places.



The Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowship

The Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowship was created with the generous support of The Ruth Sutton Trust for Music for emerging musicians who want to gain experience in all aspects of working with a professional orchestra, including performance, working in the community, programming, concert curation & production, marketing and managing finances. The fellowship is now entering its 3rd year, and will expand to be open to Wind, Brass and String musicians under the age of 30. This year, the Fellowship is not open to composers, but we are looking to bring this element back in future years.

Why are we doing this?

The research tells us that for recent graduates, and existing freelance musicians, a whole variety of external forces (the cost-of-living crisis, post-pandemic budget-cuts, and reductions in money from large funding institutions) are creating an environment where music making may seem like a risky career choice. Our response is the Fellowship, which aims to combat some of this, by providing a real but reassuring all-round experience for future musicians. After a year of 360° experience, working within all aspects of the organisation, you will have gained a holistic approach to the industry, and discover the many different aspects and opportunities of a professional musician's life that you may not have had the chance to yet consider.

Eligibility

Applications for the 2025/26 Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowship are welcomed by those who:

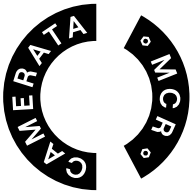
- Have graduated from a music discipline.
- Are under the age of 30 on the application deadline day (Sunday 15th June).
- Will be living in Greater Manchester or the surrounding areas (Cheshire, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Merseyside, Derbyshire) for the duration of the Fellowship (September 2025 – August 2026).

Please note this opportunity is not open to candidates that will be students during the Fellowship.

What will the Fellowship involve?

What we will offer:

- A year-long fellowship (**commencing September 2025**).
- The opportunity to engage with the full breadth of Manchester Camerata's work – as well as the opportunity to develop personal projects.
- An opportunity to spend time with leading artists, experienced and inspiring leaders and other Fellows and learn from their experience in the sector.



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- Up to the value of a £10k in earnings to support you during the fellowship year, paid as you complete up to 65 days of work.

What is the legacy?

A community of young professionals who have a greater understanding of the impact that music can make in wider society, with the opportunity to continue within the Manchester Camerata team, as a musician and practitioner.

Activity will include:

- Working in a highly collaborative and creative team with a strong and positive culture.
- Rehearsal and performance with the orchestra in a wide variety of our performance projects – everything from Mozart to Electronic Collaboration.
- 1-2-1 time with mentors of your choice within Camerata; and integration into the Camerata concerts/marketing/community/fundraising/finance teams.
- Deliver community work with Camerata practitioners, including:
 - Receiving specialist training in our Music in Mind methodology.
 - Involvement in the Music in Mind delivery programme.
 - Project managing creative projects with young people.
- Contribute to R&D events, research forums, and networking opportunities.
- Receive 1-2-1 time to meet with Camerata's inspirational Music Director and artists.
- Stage manage and produce performances.
- State-of-the-art training from a variety of industry professionals throughout the year.
- Develop your musical legacy during your time as a Fellow. The legacy of this fellowship will be led by you, and the path you choose to take with it.

If you are interested in applying, we recommend holding performance dates in your diary for the 25/26 Season where possible, which will be made available on our website later in June. Much of the above Community activity will take place on Wednesdays, so we also suggest arranging your availability to be free on Wednesdays, should you be successful with an application.

Fellows will receive support and training on all aspects of the above as well as any other requirements (such as Enhanced DBS certificate). Fellows will be expected to cover their own travel expenses within central Manchester; however, expenses will be covered for work from 15 miles outside of Manchester.





Who is the Fellowship for?

We will be looking for you to demonstrate how you might meet the following criteria throughout the Application, Audition and Interview Process:

Passion for Music and Social Impact: A genuine passion for music and a strong commitment to using music as a tool for positive social impact, aligning with Manchester Camerata's mission to create music for change.

Adaptability and Open-mindedness: Adaptability and open-mindedness to embrace various aspects of working with an orchestra, such as performance, community engagement, marketing, and finance.

Collaboration and Teamwork: Ability to work effectively, collaboratively, and respectfully in a team setting.

Leadership Potential: As the fellowship includes leadership components, such as working with community programs and managing projects, we will consider candidates' leadership qualities, including initiative and the ability to inspire and guide others.

Communication and Presentation Skills: The ability to articulate ideas clearly and engage with different demographics effectively.

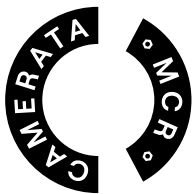
Musical Proficiency and Versatility: An ability to excel in various musical facets will be essential for your contributions to Manchester Camerata's diverse range of projects and performances, we will consider candidates' ability on their instrument and general creativity.

Diversity and Inclusion

We know that for some people, it can feel that the orchestral music world is perceived as not being as diverse or inclusive as it could be. At Manchester Camerata, we strive to be part of the change in building a more equitable sector. This is because we know that phenomenal musicians don't come from one singular background.

Diversity and Inclusion is truly important to us and we make sure that we weave this into all our work. We take informed and collaborative risks to create the change we know needs to take place. We are not always perfect on this, but that is why we partner with organisations like Black Lives in Music to aid us on our endeavours to create greater inclusiveness for all.

In partnership with BLIM, we particularly, but not exclusively, welcome all musicians from the global majority (musicians from Black, Asian and ethnically traditionally underrepresented groups) to apply for the Fellowship.



The Fellowship in Pendle

As part of the Fellowship, Fellows will work closely with various local communities in Pendle in Lancashire. Manchester Camerata has a longstanding cultural relationship with Pendle, originating in local performances and the support of the Pendle Young Musicians Bursary. It's through this that mutual values and strong friendships have evolved, and one of the outcomes of that is the Fellowship programme, supported by the Ruth Sutton Trust for Music.

Over the last two years, our Fellows have helped us to establish a Music in Mind Music Café in Pendleside Hospice, collaborate with the Pendle Community Orchestra, and lead folk sessions to help preserve the Lancastrian folk tradition. Fellows have also performed in local schools to spark interest in learning an instrument and invited young players to attend Manchester Camerata concerts, offering a glimpse into the world of professional music-making.

One of Camerata's priorities next year is expanding our work in Pendle, be it with young people, local community groups, with older people including those living with dementia, or with local audiences. We want this work to build on the values and friendships we have and create new ones for the future.





Application Process

We request that you complete an anonymous [online survey](#). This anonymous data will help inform Manchester Camerata's organisational development regarding its Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion policy and objectives.

Please complete the following [online application form](#) and **submit an anonymised CV** and **recent video recording** by email to Max Thomas at mthomas@manchestercamerata.com

- The online application form includes a written expression of interest and a project proposal. If an alternative format of submission suits you better, let us know and we will work with you to find another option.
- The deadline for receiving the completed online form and anonymised CV is **23:59 on 15 June 2025**. Please remove your name, address, and photo, if you usually include this on your CV.
- A recent video recording of your playing (maximum 5 minutes) should also be emailed before the deadline. For guidelines on creating your recording please see the following pages.

Candidates selected to progress will be invited to an in-person audition and interview. These will be held on 23rd–24th July in Manchester. You will hear whether you have an audition or interview by early July. Auditions will be held without an accompanist.





Tips for making your recording

- Place the device you're using to record about 2 metres away from your instrument.
- Make sure all background noise is muted before you start.
- Record a few bars, then listen back to ensure the volume levels are correct and that you can be seen in shot.
- Place your recording device on a tripod, music stand or propped on a secure surface so that you are in the shot throughout the entire video.
- If you're using a separate microphone to record audio then keep it in the same place throughout the entire recording to ensure there is a continuous volume level.
- Please record in a well-lit space so that it is easy to see your face and instrument.

Suggested devices to use

- It is important to note that the panel will be listening for the **quality of your musical and technical ability**, not the quality of your audio equipment.
- Recommended devices to record your submission are:
 - Mobile Phone
 - Tablet
 - Zoom (ensuring 'Enable Original Sound' is turned on when recording)
 - Video camera
 - Any other device you may have that will be able to record video and sound.

While we will not be assessing the quality of the audio equipment used, we recommend that you ensure your recording demonstrates your playing to the best of your ability.

Important information

- Your video must be submitted as an mp4 file, recorded in one take and not edited in any way.
- Any submissions that we believe to be edited will be removed from the audition process.
- Please do not speak or disclose your identity in any way during your recording.
- Only the Creative Producer will view your video to ensure there is no editing and your identity will remain anonymous.
- The panel will only receive the extracted MP3 (audio) file from your submission.
- Please send your file with your full name and position applying for.
- If you have any further questions or concerns regarding your submission or the overall auditions process, please get in contact.



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Please contact our Creative Producer (Max Thomas) with any questions you might have.

Email: mthomas@manchestercamerata.com

Thank you so much for your interest in being a Manchester Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellow. We know these applications can be daunting and a lot of effort, so we really appreciate the time you have taken to even get this far and considering this to be part of your musical home for the next year.

