



## University Philharmonia Conductor

University Philharmonia is the University of Nottingham's auditioned orchestra comprising current students, staff and alumni. In summer 2023, the University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University and the BBC Concert Orchestra signed a three-year partnership agreement which enables orchestral activity aligned to academic research and opportunities for current students to take place. This is an exciting time to join the team delivering the University of Nottingham's flagship ensembles.

A new management structure is being implemented for each of the University Philharmonia and University Choir/Chamber Choir (the latter conducted by the University Choir Director). A steering committee comprising the Philharmonia Conductor, staff representative(s) of the Department of Music, Head of Music Programmes (Lakeside Arts), student role holders (Concerts & Planning Manager, Personnel Manager, Marketing & Publicity Manager, and Librarian), and two player representatives (students, staff, or alumni) will meet regularly to decide concert repertoire, dates, and to confirm University Philharmonia projects within the allocated budget.

### Main responsibilities

As University Philharmonia Conductor, rehearse and conduct the orchestra in a minimum of two public concerts annually to ensure skills development and performance delivery at the highest possible standard. Mentor student conducting assistants attached to University Philharmonia, providing opportunities for each to conduct one piece in at least one concert. Participate in audition panels for orchestral auditions, conducting, and student soloist auditions.

### Artistic Planning

- Participate in monthly planning meetings with the University Philharmonia Steering Committee (UPSC) comprising: staff representative(s) of the Department of Music, Head of Music Programmes Lakeside Arts and student role holders for University Philharmonia.
- Devise concert programmes in consultation with UPSC within agreed budget parameters. Develop a flexible approach to repertoire planning where possible to provide stimulating and challenging performance opportunities for the University Philharmonia that extend players' performance skills, experiences, and repertoire knowledge.
- Ensure orchestral programme offers exciting opportunities that are valued by the performers and deliver high quality experiences that enhance the profile of University of Nottingham music-making.

### Performance Opportunities

- Conduct a minimum of two concerts with University Philharmonia during the contract period.
- Work with the University Philharmonia Committee to develop a range of performance opportunities available to students by:
  - Participating in discussions with the Director of Performance and Composition Professor(s) to explore opportunities for student composition workshops and performances with University Philharmonia.
  - Auditioning students/staff/alumni instrumentalists for the University Philharmonia to ensure a consistent standard of performance.
  - Participating in the audition panel for student soloists and conductors for opportunities to perform with University Philharmonia.

- Working with the UPSC, Head of the Department of Music, and the BBC Concert Orchestra CEO to deliver student ensemble opportunities aligned to the BBC Concert Orchestra residency.

### **Student Skills' Development**

Create new opportunities for student involvement to broaden their experiences, offering practical development opportunities and/or informal performances:

- Offer a minimum of one conducting assistantship(s) with the University Philharmonia and support students with one-to-one coaching on technique, score preparation, rehearsal planning and management.
- Liaise with UPSC student role holders: Concerts & Planning Manager, Personnel Manager, Marketing & Publicity Manager, and Librarian in the management of University Philharmonia.

### **Location & Schedule**

#### **Orchestra Auditions**

Djanogly Recital Hall, Department of Music, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD

Friday 4 October, 4-9pm

Saturday 5 October, 9-7pm

Sunday 6 October, 9-7pm

Times subject to amendment according to number of auditionees.

#### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsal Hall, Department of Music, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD

Tuesdays, 6.30-9pm, commencing Tuesday 15 October.

#### **Concerts**

Great Hall, Trent Building, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD

Autumn 2024 – Saturday 30 November, 7.30pm (TBC)

Spring 2025 – concert/project to be confirmed.

#### **University Philharmonia Steering Committee Meetings**

Dates and times to be confirmed. Average one monthly in person or online.

#### **University Philharmonia Conducting Assistants**

Convene auditions to select student Conducting Assistants (1-3 maximum) for University Philharmonia for the academic year 24/25.

Mentoring Assistant(s) in weekly 1-hour group sessions.

#### **Soloist Auditions**

Take part in the audition panel to select student soloists for the opportunity to perform with University Philharmonia (or other student ensembles if appropriate).

Audition date/time to be confirmed.

#### **Fee**

£5,500 (+VAT if registered) inclusive of preparation, rehearsal and concert delivery, auditions, meeting attendance, accommodation and travel.

Fixed-Term 16 September 2024-30 June 2025.

To apply, please send a CV, a statement explaining your suitability for the position, and a video of yourself conducting an ensemble – rehearsing or in a concert (a maximum of 15 minutes in total). You are free to include full works or excerpts, preferably YouTube or equivalent links.

For further details, please contact: Dr Catherine Hocking (catherine.hocking@nottingham.ac.uk) or Dr László Rózsa (laszlo.rozsa@nottingham.ac.uk).

**Deadline for applications: Thursday 29 August 2024.**

**Interview date: Thursday 12 September 2024.**

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#### **Essential skills**

- Exceptional musicianship and conducting expertise, evidenced by a developing national reputation as a conductor
- A broad knowledge of orchestral repertoire, preferably in a variety of genres (and reaching beyond Western classical music)
- Experience in arts events' curation, and devising stimulating and ambitious programmes at an appropriate playing standard and to a budget
- Ability to manage, inspire, and support a diverse body of orchestra members
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills in a broad range of scenarios (incl. rehearsal process, concert presentation, relationships with guest artists and staff, steering committee work)
- Ability to innovate and creatively adapt in response to shifting student needs & cultural landscape

#### **Desirable skills**

- Experience working in a Higher Education Institution
- Experience working with a youth or community orchestra
- Good contacts with professional musicians for future collaborations and ability to build partnerships
- Hold a current DBS certificate