

Job description
Musical Director,
London Medical Orchestra

Introduction

The London Medical Orchestra is seeking to appoint a new Musical Director following the retirement of Michael Axtell in July 2011 after 20 years with the orchestra.

The London Medical Orchestra is an amateur orchestra with a professional leader for each string section. There are no auditions for membership. There are currently 35 to 40 members. We have a full wind and horn section with one trumpet, and access to more brass for concerts. We give three concerts annually, usually to raise funds for medical charities. We have 29 rehearsals a year on Tuesday evenings in term time from 7.30 – 9.30 at the Walter Sickert Community Centre, N1, near Highbury in London. The orchestra is a registered charity and is managed by a Committee elected by the members of the orchestra. The committee members are also the trustees of the orchestra.

Above all we are a very friendly, inclusive and supportive group of musicians who wish to achieve the highest possible standards whilst enjoying making music together. We are looking for a Musical Director who will be able to develop our abilities and achieve a high standard whilst continuing to make our rehearsals inclusive and pleasurable.

The Role

The Musical Director will have the following responsibilities:

- **Principal Conductor**

- The MD will plan and conduct all rehearsals, which are currently on Tuesday evenings from 7.30-9.30 following the pattern of the school terms (with a week off during the half term break). The MD will be expected to provide the term's rehearsal schedule before the start of each term

- The MD will conduct the wind sectionals, which will take place during one or more rehearsals per term. String sectionals are taken by the professional leaders.

- The MD will conduct the orchestra's concerts. The orchestra currently gives three public concerts a year on a Sunday evening with a Sunday afternoon

rehearsal. These will usually be in early December, late March/earlyApril and late June/early July at venues in the Highbury / Finsbury Park and Tufnell Park areas.

- **Repertoire**

-The input of the MD in selecting the repertoire is fundamental to the role. Final decisions regarding repertoire will be taken by the Committee, but the Committee relies heavily on the proposals and advice of the MD and leader. The MD will be expected to make recommendations regarding repertoire a year in advance.. The orchestra enjoys playing a wide repertoire, and the MD's knowledge as to the degree of challenge of different pieces is very important.

- **Management**

-The MD may be consulted about the management of the orchestra by the committee. S/he will be an ex-officio member of the committee, but will not necessarily be expected to attend all committee meetings.

-The MD is responsible for developing a supportive and collaborative relationship with the professional string leaders.

-The MD's formal link with the orchestra is via the Chair.

Terms and Conditions of Service

-The MD is a contractor of the LMO and not an employee.

-The appointment will be for three years in the first instance and renewable for fixed periods thereafter. There will be a review after the first year. The contract may be terminated by either party with appropriate notice.

-Fees will be for negotiation during the appointment process, around the region of £70 - £75 per rehearsal. The level of fees is reviewed annually.

Personal Specification

We are looking for an MD with the following skills:

- The ability to engage and inspire all sections of the orchestra
- Excellent conducting technique
- Excellent knowledge of a broad symphonic repertoire

- Ability to plan rehearsals well
- Ability to make rehearsals enjoyable supporting musicians of different abilities
- Ability to develop good working relationships with the leader and Committee

Selection Process

- The closing date for applications is the 28th February, 2011.
- Those long-listed will be invited to interview given by the committee in March 2011 (date to be fixed).
- A short list will be invited to a Play Day one day during the summer term.
- Up to three finalists will be given a term's trial each.
- The final decision will be taken by the committee following the trials.