

PRINCIPAL PIANO – ROLE DESCRIPTION

Instrument

The London Sinfonietta seeks an outstanding musician to join the ensemble as Principal Piano.

At this time, we actively encourage people from diverse backgrounds to join our organisation and we encourage applications from people that are currently underrepresented in the orchestral sector.

About the organisation

The London Sinfonietta is one of the world's leading contemporary music ensembles. Formed in 1968, our commitment to making new music has seen us commission 400 works and premiere hundreds more. Our ethos is to commission and perform music from the best composers living today, performed by world-class musicians. We are a bold and innovative organisation that seeks to engage and inspire a world-wide audience by curating ambitious and risk-taking concert formats and projects. From musical messages to the government, to operas about climate change – we're not afraid to make a statement. We regularly collaborate with other musicians, artists and contemporary art forms which helps us reach a wider audience. The organisation is committed to involving the public in its work – it is renowned for its education & community programme, which has evolved over the past 35 years.

Resident at Southbank Centre and Artistic Associate at Kings Place, with a busy touring schedule across the UK and abroad, our core eighteen Principal Players represent some of the best musicians in the world. Across our history, we have worked with many of the greatest living creators and interpreters of new music. The ensemble has just completed its 50th anniversary season, and celebrated its past relationship with composers of the post-war period including Stockhausen, Ligeti, Henze, Berio, Xenakis and Gorecki. Today the range of artistic collaborators includes composers Sir George Benjamin, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Tansy Davies, Beat Furrer, Olga Neuwirth, Kaija Saariaho, Enno Poppe, Steve Reich and Michel van de Aa, and cross-disciplinary artists such as Mica Levi, Matthew Herbert, Mira Calix, Christian Marclay and many more. We hold strong working relationships with conductors such as David Atherton, Vladimir Jurowski, Peter Rundel, Geoffrey Paterson, Susanna Malkki and Joanna Carneiro.

The next phase of the organisation's work includes on-going associations with UK organisations such as the Royal Opera and Ballet, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Music Theatre Wales, the Central St Martins School of Art and the Royal Academy of Music. The London Sinfonietta is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation from 2018-2022. The organisation receives regular national press attention for its work, not least because of its ambitious programme of new pieces and projects.

"The world's top new-music ensemble" *The Times*, January 2018

"The London Sinfonietta doesn't do nostalgia" *New York Times*, January 2018

"As gripping avant-garde orchestral theatre, it has never been surpassed" ***** *The Times*, for Stockhausen's *Trans*, December 2017

The orchestra maintained an astonishing intensity of communication. An enthralling performance ***** *The Guardian* for Haas' *in vain*, April 2016

The London Sinfonietta ensemble consists of eighteen Principal Players and will expand or contract in size depending on the repertoire. Sound Intermedia constitute two of the Principal Players reflecting the often digital and technological aspects of our repertoire and performances.

About the Role

Each Principal Player is required to excel in the diverse fields of contemporary classical music with a willingness and talent for undertaking extended and experimental techniques and a curiosity to explore the aesthetics surrounding contemporary composition, in addition to their core virtuosity and orchestral musicianship.

Each member of the ensemble is asked to perform in a wide range of settings including full orchestra, small conducted ensemble, un-conducted chamber group and solo works. Pianists are also required to accompany. Members are required to frequently double on both standard and non-standard instruments. Pianists are often asked to work with a range of keyboard instruments including synthesizer, celeste, harmonium and harpsichord.

All members are required to show a commitment to furthering the reputation of the orchestra and a willingness to play a key role in the life of the London Sinfonietta. This will include contributing to the ensemble's commitment and growing strategy for Participation and Learning work which ranges from work in public forums, education settings in addition to collaborations with advanced training conservatoires. In addition, all members will be required to maintain and develop positive working relationships with other members, conductors, composers and freelancers, working collaboratively as part of a diverse team.

Requirements of Principal Players

Due to the highly complex and specialised nature of the music that we perform, commitment from Principal Players is vitally important. However we recognise the varied demands on the highest calibre musicians that we seek to work with.

The London Sinfonietta is run by its Council (Board of Trustees) who delegate operational and artistic planning to the executive team, led by the Chief Executive & Artistic Director. Principal Players are consulted periodically on artistic planning and repertoire development whilst the London Sinfonietta Council aims to include three current Principal Players.

Recruitment Process

To apply for this position please send a CV and a short application letter to recruitment@londonsinfonietta.org.uk

Your application letter should outline your relevant experience and qualities and your reasons for wanting to join the London Sinfonietta. Selected candidates will be invited to audition for the role with shortlisted candidates invited to trial with the ensemble.

Audition Requirements

Candidates will be asked to prepare a movement from two own choice works written after 1960. Candidates will also be asked to prepare extracts from the London Sinfonietta's repertoire and prepare a short piece of sight-reading (to be presented upon arrival at audition). We anticipate that auditions will take place in July 2019.

Trials

Candidates who pass the audition stage will be invited to undertake freelance work with the ensemble to assess their suitability to take on a Principal Player position. Trials will seek to cover a variety of projects reflecting the scope of the ensemble's work and requirements of the role.

Queries

If there are any queries, please contact Natalie Marchant, Concerts and Projects Manager, London Sinfonietta, on 020 7239 9340

Equality and Diversity

London Sinfonietta is committed to equality of opportunity and does not discriminate based on a person's age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity status, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. We actively encourage people from diverse backgrounds to join our organisation and we encourage applications from people that are currently underrepresented in the orchestral sector. To assist us with our aim we ask you to complete an equal opportunities monitoring form with your application. This is entirely voluntary however the information contained will be used to monitor the effectiveness of our recruitment processes; it will be stored anonymously and confidentially, and will not be used by the audition panel for the purposes of selection.

Data Protection

London Sinfonietta is aware of its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and is committed to processing your data securely and transparently. Please visit our [website](#) to download the Applicant Privacy Notice which sets out, in line with GDPR, the types of data that we collect and hold on you and how the data is processed.