

Job Description

Leader, St Albans Symphony Orchestra

The Leader's role is to provide the main link between the orchestra and the Principal or Guest Conductor during rehearsals and the performance of its concert programmes. In addition to leading the first violins, she or he will oversee the musical and, where appropriate, technical development of the string section as a whole. The orchestra's season runs between September and mid-July.

Specific duties are to:

- Seek to maintain and develop the musical standards of individual players and the orchestra as a whole.
- Lead the orchestra at rehearsals and in performances during a season of up to five concerts a year, including New Year (1st or 2nd January) and two, short children's concerts (currently held on a Sunday afternoon in autumn). The Leader will be expected to perform any *concertante* solo work in the selected repertoire to a high standard.
- Lead the orchestra for its biennial orchestral workshops (Friday evening / Saturday) and also an informal, end of season, 'Concerto Evening'.
- Rehearse with the orchestra weekly on a Wednesday evening (7.30pm to 10pm) in St Albans (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed, such as for school holidays, sectional rehearsals, and occasional repertoire evenings).
- Take lead responsibility for agreeing with other string section principals the most appropriate bowing arrangements for works being performed by the Orchestra, in advance of each rehearsal cycle.
- Tutor the first violins (and occasionally other string sections) at sectional rehearsals.
- Lead the orchestra in rehearsals and performance for the biennial choral concerts organised by the St Albans St Cecilia Festival Society, of which SASO is a member. (This becomes one of SASO's five public concerts in applicable seasons)
- Attend three meetings of the SASO committee each season, acting *ex-officio*, in a non-voting, advisory capacity.

- Make repertoire recommendations in consultation with the Principal Conductor and the SASO committee and advise on concert planning and other matters relating to the administration of the orchestra.

Job requirements

Essential

- Evidence of professional violin-playing and significant previous experience of leading rehearsals and performances of symphonic repertoire to a high standard.
- Ability to motivate non-professional players to achieve a high standard of performance and enjoyment of music-making.
- A wide-ranging knowledge of the symphonic repertoire and its technical and musical requirements.

Desirable:

- Previous experience working with non-professional orchestras and musicians who aim to achieve high performance standards.

Terms and remuneration

Following her or his appointment, the Leader's contract will be subject to review and confirmation in January 2021. Thereafter, it will be subject to renewal by the SASO committee every two years.

SASO's payment terms for the 2019/20 season are available on application to Jenny Lines, the Hon. Secretary: secretary@saso.org.uk

Statement on equal opportunities

St Albans Symphony Orchestra welcomes applications from suitably qualified musicians regardless of age, gender, race, religion/belief, sexual identity or disability.