



CBSO City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Principal No.4 First Violin

The CBSO is seeking a violinist to sit No.4 in the First Violin section including sitting up to No.2 in the section. They may also be asked to lead small ensemble projects.

SALARY: £44,783 per annum

CONTRACT: 200 days per year

LOCATION: Birmingham

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Midday on 3 December 2025



ABOUT THE CBSO

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) is the flagship of musical life in Birmingham and the West Midlands, and one of the world's great orchestras.

Resident at Symphony Hall in Birmingham, the orchestra performs over 150 concerts each year in Birmingham, the UK and around the world, playing music that ranges from classics to contemporary, film music to symphonic disco, and everything in between. With a far-reaching community programme and a family of choruses and ensembles, it is involved in every aspect of music-making in the Midlands. But at its centre is a team of 90 superb professional musicians, and more than 100-years of making great music in the heart of Birmingham.

That local tradition started with the orchestra's very first symphonic concert in 1920 – conducted by Sir Edward Elgar. Ever since then, through war, recessions, social change and civic renewal, the CBSO has been proud to be Birmingham's orchestra.

Under principal conductors including Adrian Boult, George Weldon, Andrzej Panufnik and Louis Frémaux, the CBSO won an artistic reputation that spread far beyond the Midlands. But it was when it discovered the young British conductor Simon Rattle in 1980 that the CBSO became internationally famous – and showed how the arts can help give a new sense of direction to a whole city.

Rattle's successors Sakari Oramo, Andris Nelsons and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla helped cement that global reputation, and continued to build on the CBSO's tradition of flying the flag for Birmingham. Now, under the dynamic leadership of Kazuki Yamada, the CBSO continues to do what it does best – playing great music for the people of Birmingham, the Midlands, and beyond.



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

The CBSO offers a range of Continuous Professional Development opportunities for its musicians, which includes the opportunity to engage with the CBSO's Learning and Engagement Programme. The L&E programme works with a broad and diverse range of participants through projects in primary, secondary and special schools, care settings and community venues. We support talented young musicians through our partnership projects with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, the CBSO Youth Orchestra and side-by-side orchestra days. A variety of training opportunities are available for CBSO players to help support these projects.

CHAMBER MUSIC

In addition, there are extensive chamber music opportunities in our player-led Centre Stage series and small ensemble performances, performing to range of different audiences at the CBSO Centre and across the region.

INTERNATIONAL TOURING

The orchestra enjoys regular high-profile international touring as part of its varied schedule, making it one of the most globally active of the UK's regional orchestras. Recent international touring destinations have included the United States, Japan, and many of Europe's finest concert halls.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The CBSO is an equal opportunity organisation: we value diversity in our organisation and welcome applications from everyone. We consistently monitor our recruitment process to ensure that individuals are selected based on their relevant merits and abilities and receive equal treatment.

You will be welcomed at the CBSO and will find an inclusive environment where different views and experiences are valued, and everyone is able to be themselves. We recognise and understand the importance of diversity and inclusion and want our organisation to be representative of the audiences, people and communities we serve.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Candidates should have experience of performing in symphony orchestras and evidence through their application form of excellence in performance in a professional context.

The CBSO will also consider candidates who are in the early stages of their career and can clearly demonstrate their potential to fulfil the role.

The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate the following skills and experience:

Essential:

- Highly reputable classical music training at higher education level and above.
- Recent orchestral experience as a professional violinist.
- Commitment to delivering the highest standard of work.
- Demonstrate excellent communication and organisational skills.
- Be self-motivated and able to work under pressure.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop positive working relationships and to work co-operatively as part of a team with other members of the orchestra and management/administrative team.
- Demonstrate respect for others by being fully prepared to play at the start of every session.
- The ability to understand and to speak English.

Desirable:

- Proven expertise in a broad range of musical and performance activities including Learning and Engagement work and chamber ensembles.
- Considerable recent orchestral experience as a professional violinist.



HOW TO APPLY

To apply to for this position, please complete the online application form below. Any queries should be directed to applications@cbso.co.uk.

Please note that our shortlisting process is anonymous, so please ensure your application form does not reference your name or personal details.

We ask that you complete the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Monitoring section of the online form when you submit your application. The information collected will be treated as confidential, used for statistical purposes only, and will not be treated as part of your application.

Link to application form: <https://forms.office.com/e/xrK53Ckwcc>

RECRUITMENT TIMETABLE:

Application deadline: Midday 3 December 2025

Auditions: 12 January 2025, 23 January 2025

Both First and Second audition rounds will take place on the same day using a call back system.

QUERIES:

If you have any urgent queries, please contact applications@cbso.co.uk.



TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The contract allows for non-orchestral work to be delivered in contract whilst always prioritising the work in the orchestra
- This position is full time with a work commitment of 200 days per contract year
- Salary £44,783 per annum
- There are thirty-five days paid holiday in addition the Public Holidays
- Membership of the Company's Group Stakeholder Pension Plan
- Various benefits for CBSO employees including, but not limited to:
 - An instrument loan fund (up to £5,000) at preferential rates of interest
 - A study fund offering players up to £250 per annum
 - Comprehensive instrument insurance
 - A comprehensive sickness scheme, with cover for long term sickness or permanent disability
 - Opportunity to join the employee-led CBSO Benevolent Fund.
- All CBSO employees are expected to adhere to all CBSO's policies

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