

Emerging Musicians Fellowship

Application Pack
27/28 Season



About Liverpool Philharmonic

Liverpool Philharmonic is one of the UK's most significant music organisations, in one of the world's greatest music cities. Established in 1840, we've been at the centre of Liverpool's cultural life for generations.

At our heart is the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the UK's oldest professional symphony orchestra, and our Philharmonic Hall and Music Room, which host over 400 performances every year. Our learning and wellbeing programmes reach schools, hospitals and communities across the region, benefiting more than 130,000 people annually. By supporting the next generation of artists and audiences, we're helping shape the future of Liverpool and beyond.



What is the Emerging Musicians Fellowship?

The Emerging Musicians Fellowship is a paid development opportunity that gives early-career orchestral musicians an immersive experience of professional orchestral life, on and off the concert platform.

In the 2027/28 season, we'll welcome four Fellowship Musicians into the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra for five periods of work spread across the season. Following an induction, Fellowship Musicians rehearse and perform alongside the Orchestra for three intensive patches, each lasting around a week. During these patches, you'll also take part in musical and non-musical training, plus our education work too.

Throughout the year, Fellowship Musicians will:

- Be partnered with a mentor from the Orchestra, meeting regularly for guidance and support
- Receive instrumental lessons from an Orchestra musician to develop your skills as both instrumentalist and orchestral player
- Attend training on topics such as audition technique, liaising with orchestra managers, CV writing and managing a portfolio career
- Have access to our Musicians' Performance and Wellbeing Programme, including injury prevention screening, audiology (including custom earplugs) and performance psychology
- Join our Learning & Health programmes. Your first patch includes time with Youth Company and In Harmony Liverpool Philharmonic, playing alongside children and young people across the city
- Gain practical experience and tailor-made training based on your ambitions beyond orchestral performance — this might include the library, marketing, programming or fundraising
- Become ambassadors for the Fellowship, representing Liverpool Philharmonic in the community and at a local and national level, during and after your time with us

- Help shape the ongoing evaluation of the Fellowship through meetings with mentors, Fellowship Lead Musicians and other Liverpool Philharmonic staff

At the end of the Fellowship, there'll be a wrap week that includes:

- An exit audition
- A chamber performance programmed and performed by our Fellowship Musicians
- Advice sessions around your future musical and professional development

It's also when we welcome the next cohort of Fellowship Musicians to the programme, growing our Alumni network in the process.



Who can apply?

The programme is perfect for musicians who are performing at the standard required to play in a professional orchestra and wish to pursue orchestral music performance. This may include musicians who are:

- In part- or full-time higher education
- Recently out of higher education but not yet established in an orchestral career
- Considering a career change or move into orchestral work
- Yet to establish an orchestral career

If you've had multiple trials or extensive professional extra work, this may not be the right opportunity for you – that'll be something we look at as part of your initial application.

To apply, you need to be aged 18+ on 23 September 2026, but the programme has no upper age limit. You'll also need to be able to demonstrate the right to work in the UK – we'll ask for proof of this during the application process.

Who are we looking for?

This year we're recruiting four Fellowship Musicians on any of the following instruments:



Strings

Cello
Double Bass
Harp



Woodwind

Oboe
Oboe with Cor Anglais
Cor Anglais with Oboe

Clarinet

Bass Clarinet with Clarinet
Eb Clarinet with Clarinet
Eb and Bass Clarinet with Clarinet



Brass

Trombone
Bass Trombone
Tuba

We're looking for Fellowship Musicians who share our values and approach to work:

- **You do your best work with others.** Playing in an orchestra is about making music as part of a team. During your Fellowship year you'll be working closely with many groups: our musicians, our Learning and Health teams, and our communities.
- **You're open and curious.** We encourage and welcome questions throughout the Fellowship.
- **You're brave enough to try new things.** You'll have the chance to explore new scenarios in a space where you'll receive feedback and support.
- **You want to learn.** As an organisation we're constantly looking to learn and improve. We want to see the same passion in you.

You can apply on more than one instrument where relevant (e.g. Clarinet; Bass Clarinet with Clarinet) – you'll just need to submit a separate application for each instrument and follow each set of audition requirements.

There'll only be one place available per instrument – we won't select two musicians who play the same instrument.

What does the year look like?

Throughout the season, there are five periods of work:

	Dates	Notes
Induction	24 & 25 June 2027	You'll need to be available on these dates to take part in the Fellowship.
Three week-long patches	Between September 2027 and July 2028	Each patch is filled with rehearsals and performances with the Orchestra, plus participation in our Learning & Health programmes too. Schedules are busy and include both daytime and evening commitments, so please keep these weeks completely free. Ahead of these patches, you'll also need to make time to practise your parts.
Wrap week	End of 27/28 season	Includes your chamber performance and exit audition

Dates of the three week-long patches and wrap week are confirmed at the point of offer. You'll need to commit to all dates to accept the place.

Taking part in our Learning & Health programmes might involve heading out into the city, using music to connect and empower Liverpool communities. If this is an area of particular interest, we can make sure this features in all patches.

What's the recruitment process?

Round 1 — application form and video audition

1. You'll need to record a video audition following the requirements for your instrument. The video must have been made in the past six months. All audition requirements, including excerpts, are available on our website. There's full guidance on recording your video on the next page.
2. Applications are then made through Networx – please fill in the application form and upload the video link there.

Round 2 — live auditions

If you're successful at Round 1, you'll be invited to a live audition in Liverpool. The provisional dates are:

- Monday 26 April: Clarinets
- Tuesday 27 April: Oboes/Cor Anglais and Harp
- Wednesday 28 April: Cello and Double Bass
- Thursday 29 April: Brass

You'll need to be available from 10am to 5pm on your audition day. Unfortunately, because of the orchestral schedule, we can't offer alternative audition dates or times.

You'll have an individual audition plus a group workshop or sectional with musicians from the Orchestra. Your individual audition will include orchestral excerpts and solo repertoire, and you'll perform excerpts alongside our musicians too.

We'll contribute up to £50 towards your travel for Round 2.

Positive Action

We recognise that the Orchestra and our industry more widely does not yet fully reflect the diverse society we serve. That's why at Round 1 we're taking Positive Action to prioritise applications from those whose backgrounds are currently underrepresented in UK orchestras.

As part of the application form, we ask applicants to complete Equal Opportunities information. This helps us identify those with protected characteristics.

Where an applicant declares a protected characteristic – race, gender, socio-economic status, disability, or sexual orientation – and meets all the required criteria at Round 1 (including performance and supplementary criteria), we guarantee them a live Round 2 audition.

How to apply (Round 1 Video audition)

Step 1: Record your video

Please follow these guidelines when making your recording:

- Your video recording must be performed 'as live' in one continuous take.
- It must be unedited.
- It must be recorded on a mobile phone.
- Both you and your instrument should be visible on camera.
- Your video must have been recorded in the past 6 months.
- You must not use an external microphone or similar.
- You can't use any technological equipment to support your audition such as headphones, monitors, microphones, other recording devices or metronomes.
- Repertoire must be performed in the order specified in the audition requirements excerpt booklet.
- You must not speak during the recording.
- Where possible, recordings should be made approximately 2-3m from the recording device to achieve best sound.

Your video will be monitored by a non-panel member of the Learning Team to ensure these recording guidelines have been followed. The panel will only hear the audio of your submission. All recordings are private submissions and will only be listened to by the panel.

Once you've made your video...

- **Upload it to YouTube.** Set the visibility to Unlisted, so it can't be found by anyone who doesn't have the link.
- **If you haven't uploaded to YouTube before,** these guides take you through it step by step:

[How to upload videos with YouTube Studio](#)

[Further information on how to upload videos with YouTube studio](#)

- **Copy the video link** from YouTube.
- **Paste it into your Networkx application,** in the Submitting Video section.

You'll find the link for the application form on our website.

Step 2: Apply via Networkx System

Please read through all instructions before you start your application.

Follow the application link on the web page to complete your application form. Applications will close at 23:59 on Tuesday 24 November.

- Register your email address and confirm it
- Create a Networkx System account
- Complete each section
- Add your video link (or links, if you are applying on more than one instrument)

If you're applying on more than one instrument:

- In Networkx you'll select the number of instruments you're applying on.
- When you paste your video links, write the instrument name first, then paste the link.
- Repeat for each instrument, as an example:
Clarinet — [link]
Bass Clarinet with Clarinet — [link]

As part of the application, you'll be asked the following questions. It might be useful to have a think about them before you start filling in the form.

- **Please tell us about your orchestral experience to date.** This is at any level: youth, college, university, student, amateur, and/or professional. Please provide rough dates where possible. You should also write here if you have undertaken any professional trials, again providing details of where and when. However don't worry if you haven't had any professional orchestral experience to date – this isn't required for this opportunity. (200 words max)
- **Please tell us why you are applying for this opportunity and why you feel it is right for you at this stage in your career/development.** We're looking for musicians who this year will make a real difference. (200 words max)
- **Please tell us about any other musical experience or interests that you think would be relevant for us to consider.** For example teaching, chamber performance, composition, participation and community work etc. (200 words max)

Key Information

You'll receive a fee of £2,750 to cover the year of work with us, paid in five equal instalments — one after induction, one after each patch of work and the final one after wrap week. The fee is intended to cover your costs including travel, accommodation and food. Additional financial support can be provided where it's needed.

It's completely free to apply

Just to note, this isn't a full-time course, and it isn't employment/equivalent to employment with Liverpool Philharmonic. Fellowship Musicians are contracted as freelance musicians, solely for the duration of the patches of work in Liverpool, and you'll be responsible for making all tax and national insurance contributions resulting from this engagement.

Timeline

Applications open	23 September 2026
Q&A session via Zoom	5 October 2026, 18:30 Zoom link Meeting ID: 816 0799 5777 Passcode: 251897 Thinking of applying? This is an informal session where you can ask questions about the Fellowship and the application process. Ask whatever you'd like to know, no question is too small! It'll be led by Ian Fair, a viola player in the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and one of the Lead Musicians on the Fellowship, and Montserrat Fuentes Romero, Projects Manager for the Emerging Musicians Programme.
Applications close	Tuesday 24 November (23:59)
Shortlisting	Nov 2026 – Dec 2026
Results for Round 1	20 February 2027
Round 2 live auditions	26–29 April 2027
Cohort appointed	May 2027
Induction	24–25 June 2027
First patch of work	Autumn 2027

Any questions?

Get in touch with
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