



## **Job Vacancy: Orchestra Leader**

May 2025

**Position: Orchestra Leader (Freelance Contract)**

**Location:** Limerick, Ireland

**Reports to:** Chief Executive Officer

**Closing Date for Applications:** 23.59, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

**Auditions and Interview Date:** Mid October

### **Position Overview:**

Irish Chamber Orchestra (ICO) is seeking an exceptional and dynamic musician to join its ranks as **Orchestra Leader**. This role offers a unique opportunity to make a significant artistic contribution to one of Ireland's premier ensembles and to the broader cultural landscape in Ireland.

As ICO embarks on an exciting new chapter with its inspirational new Artistic Partner Henning Kraggerud, the Orchestra Leader will be instrumental in leading the ensemble through vibrant performances with brilliantly creative programming that spans baroque to contemporary and Irish music.

Resident at the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance at the University of Limerick, ICO has garnered critical acclaim with performances at leading concert halls and festivals across Europe, the U.S.A., and South America, with recordings on the Orfeo and Alpha Classics labels.

This is a truly exciting opportunity for a visionary musician to work alongside renowned guest artists and directors, which has recently included the likes of Jörg Widmann, Thomas Zehetmair, Kristian Bezuidenhout, Brett Dean, Tabea Zimmermann, Elisabeth Leonskaja, and Istvan Vardai, in one of Ireland's most highly regarded ensembles and principal cultural ambassadors.

### **Additional Information:**

- **Freelance Commitment:** ICO guarantees a minimum of ten monthly freelance projects per year, each generally comprising five to eight days, depending on the number of concerts.
- **Location & Rehearsals:** All rehearsals take place at ICO's Studio at the University of Limerick.
- **Touring:** ICO performs a concert season in Limerick and Dublin and tours regularly at home and internationally.
- **The orchestral diary:** This is finalised three months in advance, though dates are often notified up to a year in advance.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Lead the orchestra when there is a Conductor.
- Sit sub-principal to Guest Directors.
- Direct the orchestra for agreed programmes and for individual pieces as required.
- Perform as a soloist when required.
- Work in close collaboration with the Artistic Director, Artistic Advisor and CEO to shape the musical vision of the orchestra.
- Actively participate as a member of the Artistic Sub-committee, contributing to the development of the orchestra's artistic vision.
- Act as a liaison between the conductor and the orchestra, communicating musical ideas effectively.
- Provide guidance to section leaders and ensure the cohesion of the orchestra's sound.
- Contribute to educational and community engagement initiatives.
- Maintain a professional and positive relationship with orchestra members, management, and stakeholders.

**Qualifications & Experience:**

- Exceptional violin playing skills with a strong classical background and versatility in various musical genres.
- Proven leadership abilities, with prior experience leading an ensemble or orchestra.
- In-depth knowledge of orchestral repertoire and performance practices.
- Ability to inspire and motivate musicians while fostering a collaborative and positive rehearsal environment.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work closely with diverse teams of musicians, conductors, and management.

**Personal Attributes:**

- Passionate, motivated, and committed to the growth and success of Irish Chamber Orchestra.
- A team player with strong interpersonal skills and an inclusive leadership approach.
- Flexibility, adaptability and a willingness and appreciation of different musical genres and art forms.

**Application Process:**

Please apply via musicalchairs <https://www.musicalchairs.info/jobs/50622> and upload your CV and a cover letter outlining your suitability and experience by 23.59 pm Tuesday 1 July 2025.

For any queries please contact CEO Gerard Keenan on [Gerard.keenan@ul.ie](mailto:Gerard.keenan@ul.ie)

**Audition and Interview requirements:**

- A five minute mvt from one of the Bach Partitas
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> mvt of a Mozart concerto with cadenza
- A contrasting piece of own choice with cadenza as appropriate
- Orchestral excerpts tbc
- Chamber music - Mozart String Quartet played with ICO Principals
- Interview

**Closing Date:**

The closing date for applications is July 1st by 23.59 and auditions and interview will be held in the ICO Studio, University of Limerick mid-October.

For more information, please refer to our [Candidate Information Pack](#) and [ICO Strategy 2024-2028: Beyond the Notes](#).

*ICO is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to selection on merit welcoming applicants from all sections of the community.*