



Section Leader Bassoon

Candidate Information
April 2026

About Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Liverpool Philharmonic transforms lives through music.

Liverpool Philharmonic is one of the most ambitious and significant music organisations in the UK, transforming lives through music in one of the world's greatest music cities. With a rich history dating back to 1840, we are proud to be the UK's oldest continuing professional symphony orchestra but are also resolutely invested in the present and future of music, as a cornerstone of Liverpool's vibrant cultural life.

Through the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and our iconic venue – Liverpool Philharmonic Hall – we bring world-class performances to hundreds of thousands each year, presenting bold, distinctive and unforgettable performances with artists from the Northwest and around the globe. Beyond the stage, our pioneering Learning and Health programmes nurture talent from cradle to career. This includes In Harmony Liverpool Philharmonic which supports young people from some of Liverpool's most disadvantaged communities. As a cultural anchor and global ambassador for Liverpool, we welcome and collaborate with artists, audiences and communities of all backgrounds in shared experiences that uplift the human spirit and transform lives.

Our Orchestra and Venues

Led by Chief Conductor Domingo Hindoyan, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra gives over 100 performances each season, attracting renowned artists to the city and sharing world-class music globally through sell-out BBC Proms appearances and national and international tours. The iconic Grade II-listed Art Deco Hall regularly hosts internationally-acclaimed artists, while the intimate Music Room champions local and grassroots talent. Together, both venues present around 400 concerts and events reaching over 300,000 people each year, connecting Liverpool to the world and ensuring the city continues to inspire and innovate as a UNESCO City of Music.

Liverpool Philharmonic is committed to diversity and inclusion.

We work hard to reach right across our community through our learning work, and concert programme.

We attract world class artists to perform at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and our small venue, Music Room, with a diverse programme of performances ranging from classical, contemporary, rock, pop, folk, roots, and jazz to comedy, film and spoken word. We work with many organisations and cultural partners in the City to ensure that the artists and performances we put on stage, and the audiences we attract truly represent our community.

Liverpool Philharmonic reaches more people than any music organisation outside London.

Over 350,000 people attend Liverpool Philharmonic concerts each year.

73,000 young people participate in our Youth Company and associated ensembles, attend concerts or take part in our In Harmony programme.

Around 1M people in 92 countries listen to our recordings each month on Spotify, more than any UK orchestra outside London.

Over 31,000 people have benefitted from our music and health programme over the last 15 years.

What is the role?

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- **Title:** Section Leader Bassoon
- **Department:** Orchestra
- **Responsible to:** Orchestra Personnel Manager
- **Contract:** Full time, permanent

Principal Role

- To perform as Section Leader Bassoon with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in a range of musical styles and genres, orchestra and ensemble size
- To have excellent orchestral and solo playing abilities, maintaining this to the highest musical standards
- To perform in the Orchestra at venues throughout the UK and on foreign tours, involving regular evening and weekend working

Whilst this position does not require the Musician to work exclusively with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, it is expected that the Orchestra will have priority on the Musician's availability.

In accordance with Liverpool Philharmonic's policy regarding unpaid leave, this must be agreed in advance by the Orchestra Management team and is subject to the scheduling requirements of the Orchestra.

Key Responsibilities

- To play in and lead the bassoon section and exemplify musical excellence at all times
- To be fully prepared and familiar with programmed repertoire, including solos, in advance of rehearsals, recordings and performances
- Ensure the bassoon section is consistently performing at its best
- Foster, encourage and value a positive and supportive atmosphere within the bassoon section
- Uphold and model the highest standards of professional etiquette during all rehearsals, performances and recordings
- Manage the bassoon section rota and unpaid leave requests in collaboration with and with the support of the Orchestra Management team, whilst maintaining the highest musical standards
- Undertake informal 1-2-1 meetings with section members to discuss musical & artistic performance and proactively encourage training/personal development
- Advising the Head of Orchestra Management on training and development needs/opportunities for individuals within the section and the section as a whole.
- Proactively maintain communications with the Artistic Team including the Chief and Guest Conductors to achieve the highest artistic standards
- To lead the musical and artistic aspects of the Orchestra recruitment process including chairing panels
- To consult and advise the Orchestra Personnel Manager on engaging external freelance players

Person Specification

The successful candidate is likely to be able to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and experience:

- Excellent professional playing abilities of both orchestral and solo repertoire
- Knowledge and experience of performing symphonic repertoire
- Ability to lead and work collaboratively, inspiring and motivating members of the bassoon section
- Ability to communicate effectively with section leaders and members of other sections during rehearsals to promote collaborative working practices
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to work as part of a team with a diverse range of people
- Ability to plan ahead
- Awareness of Health and Safety issues in general and specifically regarding noise

Personal style and behaviour:

- To be guided by our core values, to ‘enhance and transform lives through music’ to have enthusiasm and commitment to Liverpool Philharmonic’s mission.
- To ensure in every aspect of this role, your work aligns with our values:
 - Passionate about music
 - Ensemble
 - Excellent
 - Welcoming
- Commitment to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, and shows respect for the views and actions of others.
- Flexible approach to working
- Team player

Please note: This job description reflects the current position. It does not preclude change or development that may be required in the future.

Key Information

- **Salary:** £50,867
- **Employment type:** Full time, permanent
- **Location:** Liverpool Philharmonic Hall
- **Holidays:** 5 weeks

What benefits are offered?

Pensions

Access to a Group Pension scheme whereby employees are auto enrolled and can enjoy employer contributions.

Musicians Performance and Wellbeing Programme

Access a comprehensive range of support for your physical and mental health and career development including injury prevention, onsite sports massage, physiotherapy, hearing health, performance coaching, training and development.

Training and Development

Individual, confidential one to one Performance Coaching is available to all Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra musicians, free of charge, as and when required, focusing on performance enhancement and artistic growth as a player.

Service Awards

Employees are provided with additional time off and cash incentives at various long service milestones.

Complimentary staff tickets

Complimentary staff tickets are available, and employees are encouraged to attend events.

Health Cash Plan

Following two years' service you will have access to a health cash plan with an external supplier. This provides cash back towards everyday healthcare bills and a range of other wellbeing benefits.

Discounted Staff Parking

Access to reduced price parking (subject to availability) in car park operated by Liverpool Philharmonic for employees who choose to drive in to work.

Rail services

Access to the Mersey travel Season Ticket enabling the cost of annual season ticket to be spread over a period of 12 months.

Cycle to work

Cycle to Work Scheme that offers discounts on a bike and accessories, with the cost spread over a period of 12 months.

How to Apply

Please apply via Musicalchairs uploading an anonymous CV and completing a short information form.

Please note, your CV should not include personal details such as your name, date of birth, gender, address or phone number.

Step 1- Submit your application on Musicalchairs

Deadline 15th May 2026

All candidates are invited to complete the online application on Musicalchairs. This will be anonymously assessed by RLPO Orchestra Management. Where possible all candidates will be invited to a Live audition, however, if there are large numbers there will be a need to shortlist.

Candidates will then progress to Stage 2 or 3 based on pre-determined criteria.

Step 2- Digital Submission

Deadline 12 noon on 2nd June 2026

Candidates will be asked to send a short video recording uploaded to Musicalchairs that will be assessed by the panel for the vacancy.

These recordings will be anonymized and only the audio listened to by the panel.

Digital Submission

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

Scheherazade

Submission guidelines:

- Please submit the digital submission with video- Musical Chairs will automatically remove the video content
- Your video recording must be unedited in one continuous take
- Candidates must not speak during the recording
- Your video recording should be portrait, and you and your instrument should be face on and central to the camera
- Where possible recordings should be made approximately 2-3m from the recording device
- The panel will only hear the audio of your submission
- Your video recording is a private submission and will only be listened to by the panel.

Candidates who succeed will progress to Stage 3.

(Please continue onto the next page)

Step 3- Live Auditions

If you are successful, you will be invited to attend a live audition in either Liverpool or London:
15th July 2026 (London)
16th July 2026 (Liverpool)

If you're unable to make the above audition dates, the panel are open to receiving recorded auditions.

1st Round (Screened)

All applicants to present the following, in the given order

MOZART Bassoon Concerto
(1st Mvmt to bar 97 -no cadenza)

Orchestral Excerpts

MOZART Overture: *Marriage of Figaro*
BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 1
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Scheherazade*
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 6 "Pathétique"

A pianist will be provided to accompany the Mozart Bassoon Concerto.

2nd Round (Unscreened)

All applicants to present the following, in the given order:

BEETHOVEN Symphony No 4
Violin Concerto
MOZART Symphony No 35 (Haffner)
RAVEL Piano Concerto in G
Rhapsodie Espagnol
ROUSSEL *Bacchus et Ariadne*, Suite 2
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No 10
STRAVINSKY *The Rite of Spring*
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No 5

Sightreading may be given

Please prepare sections marked in brackets [].
If no brackets are marked please prepare the whole excerpt.

Details of the excerpts for both the digital submission and live audition can be found on the job page for this role as a separate PDF named 'Excerpts'.

The two rounds of auditions will be on the same day.
Candidates who are successful will progress to Stage 4.

Step 4

Successful candidates will be invited for trial dates to work with the orchestra.

Trial dates will include relevant sitting up.

Candidates will be assessed throughout the trial stage and feedback may be given / requested at any point during the trial.

Ideally the whole audition / trial process will be completed within 2 years, whilst ensuring opportunities for candidates to demonstrate skills across a broad range of repertoire.

Equal Opportunities Statement

Liverpool Philharmonic transforms lives through music. We champion equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging throughout our organisation, our activities, and in the artists and music genres we present.

Our team is a dynamic group of people from all walks of life, united in our passion for music. We're committed to ensuring that everyone feels welcome and everyone is able to thrive, regardless of who they are and where they are from. We are committed to developing a more diverse workforce through encouraging applicants with the skills and experience that help us to widen our perspective and better serve the needs of the Liverpool City Region and our communities.

We particularly encourage applications from individuals from disabled, minority ethnic, and working-class communities as these groups are currently underrepresented within the creative industries.



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The work of Liverpool Philharmonic is supported by:

