

Vacancy

Sub-Principal No.2 Viola

WNO is seeking a dynamic **Sub-Principal No.2 Viola**.

Welsh National Opera shares the power of live opera and performance with audiences and communities across Wales and England.

Boasting a diverse range of artistic activities, from grand opera to chamber work, WNO Orchestra is an exciting ensemble of artistic excellence.

In recent years, WNO has given critically acclaimed new productions of Britten's *Peter Grimes* (2025) and *Death in Venice* (2024). WNO Orchestra enjoys a busy concert programme, including an international reputation with invitations to the Janáček Festival in Brno (2022) and opening the Prague Spring Festival (2023.)

The Company is at a particularly exciting point in time, having welcomed new co-Artistic Directors Adele Thomas and Sarah Crabtree to the business in January 2025. The Company is also in the process of recruiting a new Music Director, following a decade under the Artistic Leadership of Tomáš Hanus. Previous Music Directors have included Carlo Rizzi and Lothar Koenigs.

Department: Orchestra

Salary: £36,315

Deadline for Applications: Friday 28 August 2026

Contract to start: January 2028 (Full-time, permanent contract)

Audition Requirements: Audition requirements will be communicated to successful candidates after CV shortlisting.

Applicants shortlisted for auditions will be invited to an audition in person in Cardiff – weeks commencing **5 & 12 October 2026**. This will consist of screened and

unscreened auditions. Selected candidates may then be invited to play with the orchestra on the same day as part of the audition process.

Applicants shortlisted for trial periods with the Orchestra will be invited for trials commencing in December 2026.

Job Description

Job title: Sub-Principal No.2 Viola

Responsible to: Orchestra Manager

Main purpose of job: To perform as part of Welsh National Opera Orchestra for opera of all scales, concert and staged performances and rehearsals. To sit at No.2 within the Viola section, Leading the section on limited occasions. To participate in WNO's Participation and Engagement programmes. Serving as a Sub-Principal and providing decision making appropriate to the viola section in terms of section fixing, in discussion with the Section Principal and Orchestra Manager. Arrive fully musically prepared for all sessions of WNO orchestra activity.

Other Duties

- Collaborate with Section Principal, Orchestra Manager, Head of Chorus and Orchestra, Music Director and visiting conductors.
- Collaborate with members of the Viola section, and wider Orchestral group.
- Collaborate with Music Library.
- Engage with WNO's Marketing and Development strands of work.

General

- To cooperate with us in complying with relevant health and safety legislation, policies and procedure in the performance of the post. The post carries responsibility for Health & Safety issues at level 6 (see attached).
- To behave in accordance with our values.
- To maintain confidentiality and observe data protection and associated guidelines where appropriate.
- To ensure compliance with our policies and procedures at all times.

The duties in this job description are not exhaustive and may be altered at any time to reflect the changing needs of the organisation.

Person Specification

Sub-Principal No.2 Viola

Skills, knowledge and experience:

- **Exceptional and demonstrable orchestral musicianship skills**
- **Very high standard of technical instrumental skill, musicality and performance**
- **Significant experience of performing with professional opera/ballet/symphony orchestras**
- Significant and demonstrable experience of section leading
- Strong administrative skills
- Strong collaborative skills and ability to influence
- Motivated, committed and flexible in approach
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Good interpersonal skills
- Good communication skills

Health and Safety

Individual Responsibilities

All Employees

(Level 6)

Every employed person, including Managers.

Responsibilities

All employees are responsible for: -

The observance and implementation of rules and systems which are derived from the Health and Safety Policy and the arrangements for its implementation.

Taking reasonable care for their personal health and safety and that of fellow employees and others who may be affected either directly or indirectly by their acts or omissions at work.

Reporting promptly to the appropriate Manager potential or actual hazards and defects.

Taking part in any health and safety training considered by the Company to be necessary in order to comply with the Company Health and Safety Policy and current legislation.

Knowing the correct action to be taken in the event of an accident, fire or other emergency.

Co-operating with Management and other employees in meeting statutory requirements.

Not interfering with or misusing anything provided to protect their health, safety or welfare which is required by legislation and using any machinery, equipment, substance or safety device in accordance with any training and instruction.