



INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES:

No.3 Viola

** All permanent Performing Members are required to have valid and up-to-date UK work permits for work with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra **

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) is one of Scotland's five National Performing Companies and has been a galvanizing force in Scotland's music scene since its inception in 1974. The SCO believes that access to world-class music is not a luxury but something that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in, helping individuals and communities everywhere to thrive.

Funded by the Scottish Government, City of Edinburgh Council and a community of philanthropic supporters, the SCO has an international reputation for exceptional, idiomatic performances. From mainstream classical music to newly commissioned works, each year its wide-ranging programme of work is presented across the length and breadth of Scotland, overseas and online.

Equally at home on and off the concert stage, each one of the SCO's highly talented and creative musicians and staff is passionate about transforming and enhancing lives through the power of music. The SCO's Learning & Participation programme engages people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse range of projects, concerts, participatory workshops, and resources.

An exciting new chapter for the SCO began in September 2019 with the arrival of dynamic young conductor Maxim Emelyanychev as the Orchestra's Principal Conductor. His tenure has been extended twice, to 2025 and most recently to 2028. The SCO and Emelyanychev released their first album together (Schubert Symphony No 9 - Linn Records) in November 2019 to widespread critical acclaim. Their second album of Mendelssohn symphonies was released in November 2023, with a third album, of Schubert Symphonies 5 and 8, released in 2024.

The SCO also has long-standing associations with many eminent guest conductors and directors including Principal Guest Conductor Andrew Manze, Pekka Kuusisto, Nicola Benedetti, Lorenza Borrani, François Leleux, Isabelle van Keulen, Anthony Marwood, Mark Wigglesworth, Richard Egarr and Rachel Podger.

The Orchestra is committed to the creation and performance of new music; it enjoys close relationships with numerous composers and has commissioned around 200 new works, including pieces by Anna Clyne (Associate Composer 2019-2022), Sir James MacMillan, Karine Polwart, Pippa Murphy, Martin Suckling, Errollyn Wallen, Nico Muhly, Sally Beamish, Thomas Adès and the late Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Its current Associate Composer is Jay Capperault.

Orchestra Structure

The SCO is the only one of Scotland's five National Performing Companies to be based in the capital city, Edinburgh. The Orchestra is freelance and consists of 38 Member players. There are 24 full-time and 4 part-time members of staff in the administration.

The Orchestra has several named artistic positions:

Maxim Emelyanychev Principal Conductor

Andrew Manze Principal Guest Conductor

Joseph Swensen Conductor Emeritus

Jay Capper Associate Composer

Gregory Batsleer Chorus Director

The Orchestra's Work

The SCO has an international reputation for outstanding, idiomatic performances of repertoire ranging from baroque (including gut strings projects) through to newly commissioned scores, and from mainstream classical music to cross-artform collaborations.

The Winter Season

From late September to mid-May, the SCO's Winter Season provides around 23 weeks of own-promoted concerts throughout Scotland, with between two and four concerts each week – around 60 concerts in total. These take place weekly in Edinburgh and Glasgow with additional concerts in Aberdeen, Inverness, Dumfries, Ayr, St Andrews, and Perth. Touring, recording, family and schools' concerts, New Year concerts and outside engagements may also fall within this period.

Summer and Non-Season Work

Beyond the main Winter Season concerts, work is less predictable, but there is a core of about 10 weeks' activity.

Summer Touring

During the summer months, the SCO undertakes five to six weeks of Scottish regional touring to small towns and villages, including remote areas in the Highlands and Islands; the whole Orchestra is also involved in *Immerse*, the SCO's flagship education project for secondary school students.

Festivals and Overseas Touring

The SCO is one of Scotland's foremost cultural ambassadors, in demand throughout the world. Touring activities are supported by the Scottish Government, and the Orchestra generally tours overseas once per year, most recently with European tours in May and September 2025, and a performance in Amsterdam Concertgebouw in May 2026. Further overseas touring is planned for 2027 and beyond. In the UK, the Orchestra appears regularly at East Neuk Festival, the Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Proms.

Recording projects

The SCO has a longstanding partnership with Linn Records, and together they currently make one CD per year; the SCO is also occasionally engaged to record for other labels. Recordings on the SCO/Linn label include award-winning Mozart Symphonies with Sir Charles Mackerras; Serenades and Concertos by Weber and Mozart with Alexander Janiczek; Sibelius, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Prokofiev and Dvořák with Joseph Swensen, and Berlioz, Schumann, Brahms and Haydn with Robin Ticciati. These, and Maxim Emelyanychev's recordings with the SCO, have been critically acclaimed internationally.

Schedule

Overall, there is a recurrent core of around eight months' work per year, supplemented by touring and recording. This equates to c. 80 concerts in Scotland each year plus festival appearances, overseas tours, chamber music and recording projects. There are many opportunities to supplement this work with involvement in projects run by the SCO's Learning and Participation Department.

Learning & Participation

The SCO is widely regarded as a leading innovator in the field of orchestral community engagement and education. The SCO's Learning & Participation schedule runs year-round across Scotland, inspiring and investing in communities, with an extensive programme that enables people of all ages and abilities to engage with the music and musicians of the Orchestra.

SCO musicians are warmly encouraged to take part in Learning & Participation projects as part of their work with the orchestra. Some projects are designed to showcase performing skills, while others include specialist training and opportunities for continuing professional development. www.sco.org.uk/join-in

A major five-year community residency **SCO in Craigmillar** in Edinburgh has just concluded; and current projects include our **ReConnect** programme for people living with dementia; **VIBE** creative music-making courses for young people; **Immerse** and **SCO Academies** for secondary school pupils; and **SCO Family Festival**.

Playing Commitment

The terms and conditions of this position offer flexibility in workload and schedule based on minimum commitment levels for Performing Members.

The SCO's freelance contract with Performing Members provides a secure basic income while allowing flexibility for members to take on work outside the SCO. Many Members enjoy the freedom this gives, working regularly in other orchestras and ensembles as well as in non-classical settings, and supplementing their incomes and musical experiences accordingly.

If you have any queries about what the SCO playing commitment could look like (prior or during the recruitment process) please contact auditions@sco.org.uk

Applications

We welcome applications from all nationalities; however, we are unfortunately unable to offer visa sponsorship for the No.3 Viola position.

It is therefore the responsibility of individual candidates to ensure that they have the right to work in the UK prior to application. We will ask that you provide evidence showing your right to work in the UK during the application process.

If you have any queries about this, then please get in touch via auditions@sco.org.uk, and we can point you toward official UK government advice that is applicable for your individual circumstances

Previous season brochures and all recent programmes are available at the following link - <https://issuu.com/scomusic>.

Further information is also available from www.sco.org.uk.

Please apply via Musical Chairs - www.musicalchairs.info Please note that CVs will not be accepted; all information should be included in the application portfolio via Musical Chairs.

Please contact auditions@sco.org.uk should you require any further information.