

Instructions for London Symphony Orchestra auditions
First Violin Co-Leader (sitting No. 2) 2026

Job information

The Co-Leader position includes a 10% minimum of leading work.

You must have submitted your application and video first round audition on Musical Chairs by **Sun 4 Oct.**

Repertoire and excerpts:

First Round – pre-recorded video audition (we will remove video for anonymity)

Please play:

- Exposition and cadenza of the first movement of any Mozart Concerto
- Excerpt from Brahms – Symphony No. 4, mvmt 4
- Excerpts from Rimsky-Korsakov – solos A, B and C
- Excerpt from Tchaikovsky – The Nutcracker, Overture

Second Round – live* audition by invitation (unscreened)

Please play:

- Exposition and cadenza of the first movement of any Mozart Concerto
- Contrasting major concerto (c8 mins)
- Excerpt from Beethoven – Missa Solemnis Sanctus
- Excerpts from Rimsky-Korsakov – Scheherazade, all solos (A-G)
- Excerpt from Strauss – Bourgeois Gentlehomme
- Excerpt from Strauss – Ein Heldenleben, Erste Zeitmass

*In exceptional circumstances, we may offer video second round auditions on a case-by-case basis. All candidates will need to complete a live audition at some point during the process, before they can be offered the job.

Filming conditions

- No piano accompaniment.
- Single camera
- Single shot, preferably full length
- Visibly no editing (auditions found to have been edited may be excluded)
- Everything in one continuous take like a real audition.
- Your audition video can be recorded using a smartphone camera or tablet. You do not need a professional grade camera.
- When recording your audition video, use a space without background noise.
- Position your equipment in front of a plain wall so that the main light source comes from behind the camera and that the image clearly shows your head, shoulders and torso.
- Do not stand too far away from the camera or in front of a window.
- Please do not talk during the audition.

- Do not worry if the results feel a compromise; we understand you are not in a studio with professional recording equipment.

Recommended sound settings

- Very reverberant acoustics to be avoided, whether natural or artificial.
- Microphones should be clear rather than professional quality.
- The Audition Panel understand the circumstances and will judge your qualities as a player rather than the recording.

The audition process:

Your video first round audition will be heard by the panel without visuals, in order to replicate the conditions of screened live auditions.

From these, some candidates will be invited for live second round auditions on the above dates. In exceptional circumstances, we may offer video second round auditions on a case-by-case basis. All candidates will need to complete a live audition at some point during the process, before they can be offered the job.

If successful following a second round audition, you will be invited for a trial. During your trial you will be invited for periods of work with the orchestra. The successful candidate will be offered a job following their trial.

The LSO are a freelance orchestra and pay in line with the ABO / MU Category 1 Orchestral Rates. Please note that all LSO Members are expected to reside in the UK.