



JOB DESCRIPTION

SECTION PRINCIPAL HARP

The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra is reimagining the orchestral experience for a new generation – challenging perceptions, championing innovation and taking a rich variety of music to the widest range of audiences.

Alongside a flagship series of concerts at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, the orchestra broadcasts concerts on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Sounds from venues across the North of England, annually at the BBC Proms and from its international tours. The orchestra also records regularly for the Chandos label and has a catalogue of over 300 discs and digital downloads.

Championing new music, the orchestra has recently given world and UK premieres of works by Anna Appleby, Gerald Barry, Erland Cooper, Tom Coult, Sebastian Fagerlund, Emily Howard, Robert Laidlow, James Lee III, Grace-Evangeline Mason, David Matthews, Outi Tarkiainen and Anna Thorvaldsdottir, with the scope of the orchestra's output extending far beyond standard repertoire.

The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra's Chief Conductor is John Storgårds, with whom the orchestra has enjoyed a long association. French conductor Ludovic Morlot is its Associate Artist, while Anna Clyne, one of the most in-demand composers of the day, is its Composer in Association.

It performed at the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest, both at a free concert with previous Ukrainian winner Jamala and in the final itself with Italian artist Mahmood, for a rendition of John Lennon's 'Imagine' during the *Liverpool Songbook* medley.

The orchestra continues to deliver a programme of engagement with children and young people. At the end of 2023 it released *Musical Storyland*, a major new 10-part series featuring the BBC Philharmonic musicians, which brings famous stories from around the world to life using the power of music. This was the first time an orchestra has been commissioned to make a series of films for UK network television.

Through all its activities, the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra is bringing life-changing musical experiences to audiences across Greater Manchester, the North of England, the UK and around the world.

For more information visit www.bbc.co.uk/philharmonic

Job title	Section Principal Harp
Contract type	Full time – permanent
Line manager	Orchestra Manager

The BBC Philharmonic is committed to diversity, inclusion and equality of opportunity in all aspects of recruitment and employment. We encourage applications from a diverse range of backgrounds and will aim to make any reasonable adjustments for applicants throughout the recruitment process.

This role offers a competitive salary package, a defined pension scheme and many other benefits, including: annual instrument allowances, training & medical allowances, full instrumental insurance cover, discounted dental care, health care, gym membership and much more.

Key Responsibilities

- To sit as Section Principal Harp
- To demonstrate excellent orchestral and solo playing abilities, maintaining the highest musical standards.
- To support and develop positive working relationships with conductors, freelancers and all members of the orchestra.
- To play a key role in the life of the BBC Philharmonic – to be a passionate team player with a commitment to maintain and enhance the reputation of the orchestra.

Knowledge & Experience

Applicants should aim to meet a majority of the following criteria:

- Outstanding professional orchestral and solo playing abilities.
- Knowledge, passion and appreciation for the range of repertoire performed by the BBC Philharmonic.
- Ability to lead, motivate and work collaboratively – to provide artistic direction and to inspire members of the wider orchestra.
- Interpersonal skills: ability to participate as part of a diverse team and to support colleagues, conductors and freelancers

Auditions

Auditions will be held in the BBC Philharmonic's studio at MediaCityUK on **June 25th and July 28th 2025**

Deadline for applications on the musicalchairs website is 11.59pm on Sunday 18th May 2025

Shortlisting will be based on redacted CVs and successful applicants will be contacted on 1st June. If you need any further information or have any questions, please contact maria.villa@bbc.co.uk

The format of the auditions will be:

1st round (behind screens)

- Fauré Impromptu Op 86 (harp solo)
- Orchestral excerpts – pack available after submitting application.

Second round (unscreened and with piano and flute accompaniment)

- Mozart flute and harp concerto, 1st movement letter B to one before G
- Debussy Danse Profane – bar 15 to the end
- Orchestral excerpts – pack available after submitting application