

One of the most celebrated broadcast ensembles in the world, the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra's distinctive energy, lightning speed, and iconic musical character has moved and inspired audiences for over 100 years. Founded in 1922 as the ZZY Orchestra, the Philharmonic has played an essential part in shaping the Greater Manchester region into an unmissable cultural destination and a hub for world-class talent in orchestral music.

Outside of the Philharmonic Studio, their broadcast home at MediaCityUK, the orchestra presents a flagship series at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall as well as live concerts recorded in venues across the country, at the BBC Proms, and on tour. Whether encountered in the concert hall, heard on the air, seen on television, or streamed on BBC Sounds and iPlayer, the work of the orchestra is enjoyed by millions of listeners every year.

The orchestra's Chief Conductor is John Storgårds, an inspiring musical leader who has built a close relationship with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra over many years and Anja Bihlmaier is the Principal Guest Conductor. The trailblazing musical storyteller Julia Wolfe is the Orchestra's Composer in Residence for 2025/26.

Artistic innovation and the development of a new audience for classical music has been a keen focus of the orchestra for many years. In June 2024, the Philharmonic gave the world premiere of Huang Ruo's *City of Floating Sounds*, an immersive symphonic experience, at the cutting-edge Aviva Studios in Manchester. In March 2025, the Orchestra followed up with its latest collaboration with Aviva Studios, *Philharmonic Sessions: The Augmented Orchestra*, featuring the UK premiere of Anna Clyne's *PALETTE*. Upcoming UK and world premieres in the 2025/26 season include music by Laura Bowler, Edmund Finnis, Gabriella Smith, Julia Wolfe, and the UK premiere of *Angel's Bone*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera by Du Yun, produced in collaboration with English National Opera and Factory International.

Engagement work for children and young people continues to be a vital part of the orchestra's work. At the end of 2023 CBeebies broadcast *Musical Storyland*, a 10-part television series produced by the Philharmonic, featuring the musicians of the orchestra. The series brings to life famous stories from around the world 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. To date, *Musical Storyland* has been requested over thirteen million times on BBC iPlayer.

www.bbc.co.uk/philharmonic

Job title	Tutti Viola Jobshare 70%
Contract type	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 a tutti member of the viola section, stepping up to no.4 (tutti) as required
- To demonstrate excellent orchestral playing abilities, maintaining the highest musical standards.
- To support the Section Leader, helping to foster a supportive professional environment in all areas.
- To 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 of the range of repertoire performed by the BBC Philharmonic.
- Interpersonal skills: ability to contribute and 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 October 25th to 27th 2026

All applicants should apply via the Musical Chairs website.

Deadline for applications is the 14th September 2025 and successful applicants will be contacted on 24th September 2025

If you need any further information or have any questions, please contact maria.villa@bbc.co.uk

AUDITION FORMAT:

1st round / shortlisting

All applicants to submit a short audio visual file to Musicalchairs. This will be used to shortlist and the process will be anonymised and redacted. The panel will be judging intonation and phrasing – not the quality of the recording and further guidance is given on this process upon application.

Please prepare two minutes of a movement of a Bach or Reger unaccompanied suite. The Bach could be an arrangement of either a violin or cello suite.

Musicalchairs will automatically remove the video content from your upload for this round and the audition panel will only access the sound files.

Second round unscreened and with piano accompaniment at the Philharmonic Studio in Salford, October 25th to 27th 2025

- Orchestral excerpts – pack available upon application to Musical Chairs
- Unseen sight reading
- 1st movement of a major viola concerto (not Telemann, Stamitz or Hofmeister) with accompanist provided.

Overseas candidates who cannot attend the auditions in person will be able to submit a recorded second round audition after submitting their first round / shortlisting file.