

Job title	Principal (CO, Phil, NOW, SSO)/ Sub Principal (SO) (please see Appendix for the full job description for the Principal Clarinet roles for the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra		
Job family	TBC	Band	P

Job purpose

To play as a Principal member of the Orchestra, stepping up as required. To contribute inspirational solo and excellent orchestral performance of the highest musical standards. To be an effective and committed team player, demonstrating leadership when leading the Section and to play a full role in the life of the Orchestra.

Key responsibilities and accountabilities

- To play as a Principal member of the Orchestra, stepping up as required.
- To maintain the high standard of professional playing and musical and artistic excellence required by the Orchestra.
- To be fully prepared to perform relevant parts, including solos, in advance of the first working session of each project.
- To support professionally and work collaboratively with your Section Principal and all members of the Section.
- To build and support positive working relationships, to support professionally and work collaboratively with all members of the Orchestra, Orchestra management, freelance players and guest Conductors and Artists engaged by the Orchestra.
- When leading the Section, to take responsibility for the style, intonation, balance, ensemble, rhythm and preparation of the Section in conjunction with the Conductor, Leader and other Section Principals.
- In consultation with your Section Principal, advise Orchestra management on the compilation of the list of freelance musicians required in their Section.
- When leading the Section, to foster an environment in which artistic excellence flourishes and understand the demands of a broadcast and recording Orchestra.
- As required, to play a role in the orchestra's recruitment, with due regard for confidentiality and data protection; to participate in audition panels and trial assessment meetings (including writing brief audition and trial notes), and attend orchestral and artistic meetings.
- To engage in the general activities of the Orchestra, such as attendance at meetings, promotional activity and training, and to act as an ambassador for the BBC/Orchestra.
- To engage with and contribute to the Orchestra's learning and outreach activity.
- To be a role model for BBC Values and to work in accordance with the BBC/MU Agreement and all other BBC policies and guidelines.
- To actively engage with all BBC processes and policies, including Feedback Conversations.
- To support the Orchestra's Diversity and Inclusion strategy.
- To work in accordance with BBC Health and Safety guidelines and policy.

Knowledge, skills, training and experience

- Excellent and inspirational professional orchestral and solo playing ability.
- Understanding of the range of repertoire for the specific BBC Orchestra.
- Ability to work collaboratively – to inspire and contribute effectively to performances that meet the highest musical standards.
- When leading the Section, the ability to provide artistic direction and motivate members of the Section.
- Effective people and performance management skills, including the ability to give informed and constructive feedback.
- Understand the demands of a broadcast and recording Orchestra.
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to establish and develop harmonious working relationships with a diverse range of people.
- A commitment to maintain and enhance the reputation of the Orchestra.
- Able to plan ahead in order to manage personal workload and, when leading the Section, to ensure the Section is organised and prepared.
- Awareness and understanding of health and safety issues.

As this job requires travel throughout the UK and touring overseas, as well as evening and weekend work patterns, you will be expected to be available to work an agreed schedule on any day of the week including Bank Holidays.

Other information

For Reward team use only

Job Code

Definition:

Content / Content Support / Support

This job description is a written statement of the essential characteristics of the job, with its principal accountabilities, incorporating a note of the skills, knowledge and experience required for a satisfactory level of performance. This is not intended to be a complete, detailed account of all aspects of the duties involved.

Principal E Flat Doubling Clarinet & Principal Bass Doubling Clarinet, BBCSSO

Contract: Continuing (permanent), 2 Positions available - you will be able to indicate which role(s) you wish to be considered for on Musicalchairs.

Location: City Halls, Glasgow

INTRODUCTION

We have an exciting opportunity for a Principal E Flat Doubling Clarinet and a Principal Bass Doubling Clarinet to join the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

As Scotland's national broadcasting orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra has been performing for audiences across Scotland, the UK and internationally since 1935. From Oban to Aldeburgh and London to Seoul (as part of BBC Proms Korea), the 2024/25 Season has been no exception. The orchestra's live performances are regularly broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Radio Scotland and Sounds, as well as BBC Television and iPlayer.

Opening eyes and ears with ambitious repertoire beyond any benchmark, the BBC SSO is Scotland's leading champion of new music. Across nine decades, it has commissioned orchestral music by the most original voices of its time and hosts its annual Tectonics Festival of new and experimental music each spring alongside its Creative Partner Ilan Volkov.

With Associate Artist Lucy Drever the orchestra runs projects that inspire creativity and connection with families, schools and communities across Scotland. And through a close association with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the orchestra mentors the next generation of conductors, composers and instrumentalists. The orchestra supports young musical talent in BBC Radio Scotland's Young Classical Musician competition.

Ryan Wigglesworth began his tenure as Chief Conductor in September 2022. One of the foremost composer-conductors of his generation, he has directed a wide range of repertoire with the BBC SSO including the ballets of Stravinsky, major works of Elgar, and UK premieres by György Kurtág and Composer-in-Association Hans Abrahamsen. Regularly performing at the BBC Proms and Edinburgh International Festival, the orchestra is a recipient of a Royal Philharmonic Society Award and four Gramophone Awards.

Delyana Lazarova has been appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC SSO from September 2025, the beginning of the orchestra's 90th anniversary concert season.

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

YOUR KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND IMPACT:

To sit as Principal Clarinet no 3 specialising in bass playing. Stepping up as required or
To sit as Principal Clarinet no 2 specialising in Eb playing. Stepping up as required

- Maintain the high standard of professional playing and musical and artistic excellence required by the Orchestra.
- Familiarise oneself with the relevant parts, including solos, in advance of the first rehearsal and performances.

- Support professionally any Leaders and Conductors engaged by the Orchestra.
- Take responsibility for the style, intonation, balance, ensemble, rhythm and preparation of the section in conjunction with Leaders and the Chief Conductor.
- Foster an environment in which artistic excellence flourishes.
- Develop and support positive working relationships with all other members of the Orchestra, the section and any freelance players engaged by the Orchestra.
- Participate in audition panels (to include writing audition reports), trial assessment meetings, orchestral and artistic meetings as required with due regard for confidentiality.
- Engage in the general activities of the Orchestra, such as attendance at meetings, promotional activity, outreach and learning work*, and to act as an ambassador for the BBC/Orchestra during these activities.
- Be a role model for BBC Values and to work in accordance with the BBC/MU Agreement, the Information for Orchestral Players Handbook and all other BBC policies and guidelines.
- Support all the BBC's policies on managing people and diversity, including participation in Personal Development Reviews and training.
- Work in accordance with the BBC's Health and Safety guidelines and policy.

YOUR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

- Outstanding professional orchestral and solo clarinet playing abilities.
- You will have knowledge of the repertoire of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.
- The ability to both lead and work collaboratively to inspire and contribute to performances that meet the highest musical standards by providing artistic direction and by motivating members of the section.
- You will have effective people and performance management skills, including the ability to give constructive feedback, deal with sensitive issues and to make difficult decisions.
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to establish and develop harmonious working relationships with a diverse range of people is essential.
- We require you to demonstrate commitment to maintain the reputation of the Orchestra.
- We expect you to participate actively as part of a diverse team and supportive of colleagues and respecting others by being fully prepared and ready to play at the start of every session.
- The ability to plan ahead in order to prepare parts, organise allocations and to make the best use of the resources available.
- You should also have an awareness of health and safety issues.