

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra – Joint Leader Audition Requirements

Applicants shortlisted for audition will be asked to prepare:

- First movement of any Mozart Concerto with Cadenza
- First movement of any Romantic Concerto of own choice with Cadenza
- Orchestral excerpts (please see below - PDF of all excerpts available on Musicalchairs)

Live auditions will be unscreened and there will be opportunities to audition in London (22 September 2025, or by arrangement), and also possible audition dates in Wiesbaden (29 August 2025), Madrid (30 October 2025) or Orlando (January 2026). A pianist will be available to accompany auditions in London, but you may bring your own if you prefer. For auditions outside of London, the RPO will try to provide an accompanist if required but this is not guaranteed. The RPO is unable to reimburse candidates' travel costs to any audition venue. For audition enquiries please contact Kathy Balmain at BalmainK@rpo.co.uk.

Candidates must have the right to work in the UK. While there is no closing date, the RPO reserves the right to close this process in the event of finding the best candidate for this role.

Any candidate who is unable to travel for a live audition should indicate this with their application and, if shortlisted, will be given the option to submit a recorded audition.

The RPO is committed to offering a live audition to all applicants from global majority backgrounds and those with disabilities who have the relevant professional playing and leading experience and indicate this by completing the EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) form in the online application.

Orchestral Excerpts

J. S. Bach – St Matthew Passion

No. 47 (Erbarme dich): opening – bar 32 (solo line)

Brahms – Symphony No. 1

2nd mvt: bar 90 – end (solo line)

Dvorak – Symphony No. 8

2nd mvt: D – 8 bars after D (solo line)

Jarre – Dr Zhivago (Lara's Theme)

Bar 116 – 123 (solo line)

Mendelssohn – A Midsummer Night's Dream

Scherzo: Opening – E

Mozart – Symphony No. 39, K543

2nd mvt: opening – bar 37

4th mvt: opening – bar 61

Prokofiev – Symphony No. 1 (Classical)

1st mvt: opening – H

Ravel – Ma mere l'Oye (Mother Goose)

Le Jardin Feerique: Fig. 2 – 4th bar of Fig. 3 (solo line)

Rimsky-Korsakov – Scheherazade

1st mvt:

- bar 14 – Allegro non troppo
- C – D
- G – H

2nd mvt: opening – Andantino

3rd mvt: 8 bars after K – N

4th mvt: the first two cadenzas

R Strauss – Also Sprach Zarathustra

7 bars after Fig. 26 – Fig. 36

R Strauss – Ein Heldenleben

Fig. 22 – 31