



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	Principal Percussion
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 Principal Percussion stepping up to Section Principal Percussion as required.
- 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 **November 24th, 25th and 26th**

All applicants should apply via the Musical Chairs website. [LINK](#)

Deadline for applications is the 22nd October

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

AUDITION FORMAT:

First Round

All applicants must submit an audio visual file of the attached excerpt booklet to Musical Chairs. This will be used to shortlist for the second, unscreened round in Philharmonic Studio. No CVs will be shared at this point and Musical Chairs will remove the video element of your audition. The panel will be judging accuracy of playing rather than the quality of the recording and further guidance is given on this process upon application.

Second round

Successful first round candidates will be invited for audition in our studio in Salford at MediaCityUK

No solo piece is required. Candidates will be asked to play unprepared pieces from the standard orchestral repertoire chosen by the panel on standard orchestral instruments. For reference all the standard repertoire is available in the Raynor Carroll Percussion Excerpts series of books.