JOB DESCRIPTION

Role / Title: Rank & File Viola

Reports to: Orchestra Manager

Overall Purpose of the Job

The Orchestra of the Royal Opera House works with the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet to perform a diverse programme at its home in Covent Garden. The vast majority of the work of the orchestra takes place in the main auditorium at the Royal Opera House. The orchestra also very occasionally undertakes UK or overseas tours, concerts and commercial recording work.

The artistic programme in the Linbury Theatre may offer occasional opportunities for individual orchestra members to take part in chamber music and other small scale creative performance activities. The Southbank Sinfonia is a partner organisation of the ROH and players may wish to participate in joint artistic projects.

The Viola section comprises two Section Principals, two Principals, two Sub-Principals and seven Rank & File players.

The contract for this position is for 860 hours playing spread over a performing season of 47 or 48 weeks, and 5 weeks annual leave which is scheduled by Orchestra Management. There are no ‘normal’ hours of work. You are expected to work on an agreed schedule between 10:00 and the end of an evening performance on any day of the week, Monday – Sunday, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the orchestra’s collective contract which is agreed with the Musicians’ Union.

Key Accountabilities:

• On a schedule agreed with the Orchestra Manager, to play in the pit for a balance of opera and ballet productions throughout the Royal Opera House performing season in accordance with the terms of the orchestra’s lock in policy
• On occasion, to play off-stage as part of a stage band, or to play on stage in costume with the requirement to play from memory
• To play for very occasional concerts, chamber productions and commercial recording work (sometimes out of contracted hours and salary)
• To commit to and demonstrate ROH values and Behaviors in all aspects of working life at the ROH
• To undertake any other duties as may be reasonably required in the above post

Person Specification
The ideal candidate will be a very experienced player able to demonstrate the following knowledge, skills and experience:

Required
• Highly reputable classical music training
• Considerable recent orchestral experience as a professional violist
• Work authorisation for the UK

Personal Skills
• Commitment to delivering a very high standard of work

JD R&F Viola August 2023
• Good communication skills
• Self-motivation, reliability, versatility and the ability to work under pressure
• Ability to work co-operatively as part of a team
• Ability to develop positive working relationships with other members of the orchestra
• Respect for others demonstrated by being fully prepared to play at the start of every session.
• Ability to understand and speak English

Desirable
• Recent professional experience of playing for opera and ballet would be a great advantage
• Proven expertise in a broad range of musical and performance activities including education work and chamber music.

The post holder is required to own their own instrument and bow, both of which should be of a standard suitable for performing professionally.

Note: This Job Description reflects the current situation. It does not preclude change or development that might be required in the future.