



# Camerata360°

## Ruth Sutton Fellowship Application Pack 2026–2027

Supported by the Ruth Sutton Trust for Music



Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowship



Camerata360°



# Manchester Camerata

**Manchester Camerata is the UK's most relentlessly pioneering orchestra. Our vision is for everyone's life to be elevated and enhanced by exceptional music. Our purpose is to make music that matters; music for change. This is who we are. This is what we do.**

Through our music and our impact, we change the lives of people and the prospects of places. And we also reimagine what an orchestra can do – through debate, innovation, and craft. We show this not just through our actions, but also in the way that we work. Just as our namesake Florentine Camerata did in Renaissance Italy almost 500 years ago, we question, challenge, and celebrate what an orchestra can do.

We do not expect to find an 'answer' or an 'end point'. We will be relentless in following this path, continually setting new horizons of expectations for what a modern world-class orchestra can achieve.



# Manchester Camerata's Strategy

<b>Our Values</b>	<b>Humanity</b>	<b>Originality</b>	<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Fearlessness</b>
<b>Our Vision &amp; Purpose</b>	<p><b>Our Vision</b> is to transform everyone's life through exceptional music.  <b>Our Purpose</b> is to make music for positive change.</p>			
<b>Our Impact</b>	<p>To bring about the change we seek, we endeavour to create more equitable access to all our work, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Musical programming</b> that reflects our society and culture, collaborating with the greatest in classical music and with radical contemporary artists</li> <li>• <b>Music for health and wellbeing</b>, that creates equitable access and promotes better health and wellbeing outcomes</li> <li>• <b>Talent development</b>, to nurture the next generation of musical talent in the North-West and beyond – changing the direction of our art form.</li> <li>• Through <b>innovative, entertaining and informative</b> evidence-based storytelling that changes preconceptions of orchestras in our society.</li> </ul>			
<b>Our Strategic Priorities</b>	<p>Our <b>Strategic Priorities</b> are simple and deeply connected: we seek out, invest in and nurture talented people; people who are supported to innovate and create new ideas and opportunities in our programme and across all our work; innovation that enables us to sustain and grow our impact, and in turn, do even more.</p>			
<b>Our Goals</b>	<p><b>Concerts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Artistic Leadership</li> <li>• Nurture Artistic workforce</li> <li>• Establish sector-leading partnership</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain Centre of Excellence</li> <li>• Expand Centre of Excellence</li> <li>• Establish Young People's Programme</li> <li>• Train and develop musicians</li> </ul>	<p><b>Marketing &amp; Comms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positioning</li> <li>• Deeper engagement with audiences</li> <li>• Grow audiences</li> </ul>	<p><b>Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising acquisition</li> <li>• People processes and governance</li> <li>• Data, evidence and research</li> </ul>



# Performance

Everything that we do begins with driving new standards of quality in performance. Be it opening Glastonbury festival in front of 40,000 people or touring Mozart in the most beautifully intimate concert halls or re-imagining classical music with electronic producers at the top of their game, we believe in great music regardless of genre and we present this to you at the highest level.

Recent performance highlights include a series of sell-out events at our home, **The Monastery** in Gorton; a collaboration with the **Pet Shop Boys**, broadcast to more than **319 million people worldwide** as part of the **MTV EMAs; Here We Are**, our week-long festival of music featuring free performances across all 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester - from **skate parks** to **pop-ups on the tram network**; and a performance for **Princess Kate Middleton** in collaboration with the **Aakash Odedra Company**.

We are also incredibly proud of our work with Artistic Partners and guest soloists including **Rushil Ranjan, Ethan Loch**, and **Ying Fang**, alongside our inspirational Music Director, **Gábor Takács-Nagy**.

Annual dates in our diary include festive shows with **AMC Gospel Choir** at Manchester's Albert Hall, **Hacienda Classical** shows at Castlefield Bowl and festivals across the UK, and the continuation of our award-winning **Mozart, Made in Manchester** series of concerts and recordings. We also tour internationally, with recent **visits to the Baltics, Hungary and Italy**.

We're passionate about the continued development of our craft. We will accelerate the pace of change in our sector by actively listening, responding, and reacting to our audience in Greater Manchester, and delivering a programme that belongs to them.

To create the change we seek, we endeavour to create more equitable access to all our work - through musical programming that reflects our society, collaborating with the greatest in classical music and with radical contemporary artists.



# Community

**Our Music in Mind programme for people living with dementia is internationally renowned and sector-leading. In May 2024, we established the UK's first Centre of Excellence for Music and Dementia, enabling us to upscale impact, both regionally and nationally.**

Our musicians, music therapists, and Music Champions provide 'in the moment' person-centred care for people living with dementia. They bring moments of joy, connection, true expression, and help enhance the well-being of all who attend.

We are proud of this work, telling stories of those affected – no more so than with the RPS Award winning film '**Untold – Keith**'. Here we tell Keith's story of living with early onset dementia and the impact Music in Mind sessions make.

Our work with young people uses creativity to promote personal and social development within their lives, by creating new music on each project and making sure everyone's ideas are heard – and valued.

Whether for young people and teachers or for people with dementia and carers, we promote this pioneering work both nationally and globally through our concert activities and our community programmes. Working with local partners, we will deliver transformational programmes that change the lives of people and the prospects of places.



# The Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowship

The **Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowship** was created with the generous support of **The Ruth Sutton Trust for Music** for emerging musicians who want to gain experience in all aspects of working with a professional orchestra, including performance, working in the community, programming, concert curation & production, marketing and managing finances. The fellowship is now entering its 4th year, and **this year will be open to Wind (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon only), Brass (Horn only) and String musicians**, who identify as early career musicians (i.e. 0–5 years after graduating from a music discipline).

This year, the Fellowship is not open to composers, but we are considering bringing this opportunity back in future years.

## Why have we created the Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowship?

The research tells us that for recent graduates, and existing freelance musicians, a whole variety of external forces (the cost-of-living crisis, post-pandemic budget-cuts, and reductions in money from large funding institutions) are creating an environment where music making may seem like a risky career choice. Our response is the Fellowship, which aims to combat some of this, by providing a real but reassuring all-round experience for future musicians. After a year of 360° experience, working within all aspects of the organisation, you will have gained a holistic approach to the industry, and discover the many different aspects and opportunities of a professional musician's life that you may not have had the chance to yet consider.

Ruth Sutton herself was a concert pianist, a fierce champion of bringing music to Pendle and a huge advocate for young people and the next generation – we are incredibly proud that the fellowship carries her name and continues her legacy.

## Eligibility

Applications for the **2026/27 Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowship** are welcomed by those who:

- Have graduated from a music discipline.
- Are still in the early stages of a career in music (0–5 years after graduating).
- Will be living in Greater Manchester or the surrounding areas (Cheshire, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Merseyside, Derbyshire) for the duration of the Fellowship (September 2026 – August 2027).

*Please note this opportunity is not open to candidates that will be students during the Fellowship.*



# Who is the Fellowship for?

**We will be looking for you to demonstrate how you might meet the following criteria throughout the Application, Audition and Interview Process:**

**1) Passion for Music and Social Impact:** A genuine passion for music and a strong commitment to using music as a tool for positive social impact, aligning with Manchester Camerata's mission to create music for change.

**2) Adaptability and Open-mindedness:** Adaptability and open-mindedness to embrace various aspects of working with an orchestra, such as performance, community engagement, marketing, and finance.

**3) Collaboration and Teamwork:** Ability to work effectively, collaboratively, and respectfully in a team setting.

**4) Leadership Potential:** As the fellowship includes leadership components, such as working with community programs and managing projects, we will consider candidates' leadership qualities, including initiative and the ability to inspire and guide others.

**5) Communication and Presentation Skills:** The ability to articulate ideas clearly and engage with different demographics effectively.

**6) Musical Proficiency and Versatility:** An ability to excel in various musical facets will be essential for your contributions to Manchester Camerata's diverse range of projects and performances, we will consider candidates' ability on their instrument and general creativity.

## Diversity and Inclusion

At Manchester Camerata, we strive to be part of the change in building a more equitable sector. This is because we know that phenomenal musicians don't come from one singular background.

We want to nurture the next generation of musical talent in the North-West and beyond – changing the direction of our art form.

We are not yet perfect on this, but that is why we partner with organisations like **Black Lives in Music** to aid us on our endeavours to create greater inclusiveness for all.

In partnership with BLIM, we particularly, but not exclusively, welcome all musicians from the global majority (musicians from Black, Asian and ethnically traditionally underrepresented groups) to apply for the Fellowship.



# What will the Fellowship involve?

## What we will offer:

- A **year-long fellowship** (commencing September 2026).
- The opportunity to engage with the full breadth of Manchester Camerata's work – as well as the opportunity to develop personal projects.
- An opportunity to spend time with **leading artists, experienced and inspiring leaders and other Fellows** and learn from their experience in the sector.
- Up to the value of up to **£10k in earnings** to support you during the fellowship year, paid as you complete **up to 55 days of work**.

## What is the legacy?

A community of young professionals who have a greater understanding of the impact that music can make in wider society, with the opportunity to continue within the Manchester Camerata team, as a musician and practitioner.

## Activity will include:

- Working in a highly collaborative and creative team with a strong and positive culture.
- Rehearsal and performance with the orchestra in a wide variety of our performance projects – everything from Mozart to Electronic Collaboration.
- 1-2-1 time with mentors of your choice within Camerata; and integration into the Camerata concerts/marketing/community/fundraising/finance teams.
- Deliver community work with Camerata practitioners, including:
  - Receiving specialist training in our Music in Mind methodology.
  - Involvement in the Music in Mind delivery programme.
  - Project managing creative projects with young people.

- Contribute to **R&D events, research forums, and networking opportunities**.
- Receive 1-2-1 time to meet with Camerata's inspirational Music Director and artists.
- Stage manage and produce performances.
- State-of-the-art training from a variety of industry professionals throughout the year.
- Develop your musical legacy during your time as a Fellow. The legacy of this fellowship will be led by you, and the path you choose to take with it.

We are also delighted to introduce a **Ruth Sutton Camerata 360° Fellow Board Observer** role, which will be offered to a suitable fellow each year, to sit on the Camerata Board as a participant observer.

**If you are interested in applying, we recommend holding performance dates in your diary for the 26/27 Season where possible, which will be made available on our website later in July.** Much of the above Community activity will take place on Wednesdays, so we also suggest arranging your availability to be free on Wednesdays, should you be successful with an application.

Fellows will receive support and training on all aspects of the above as well as any other requirements (such as Enhanced DBS certificate). Fellows will be expected to cover their own travel expenses within central Manchester; however, expenses will be covered for work from 15 miles outside of Manchester.

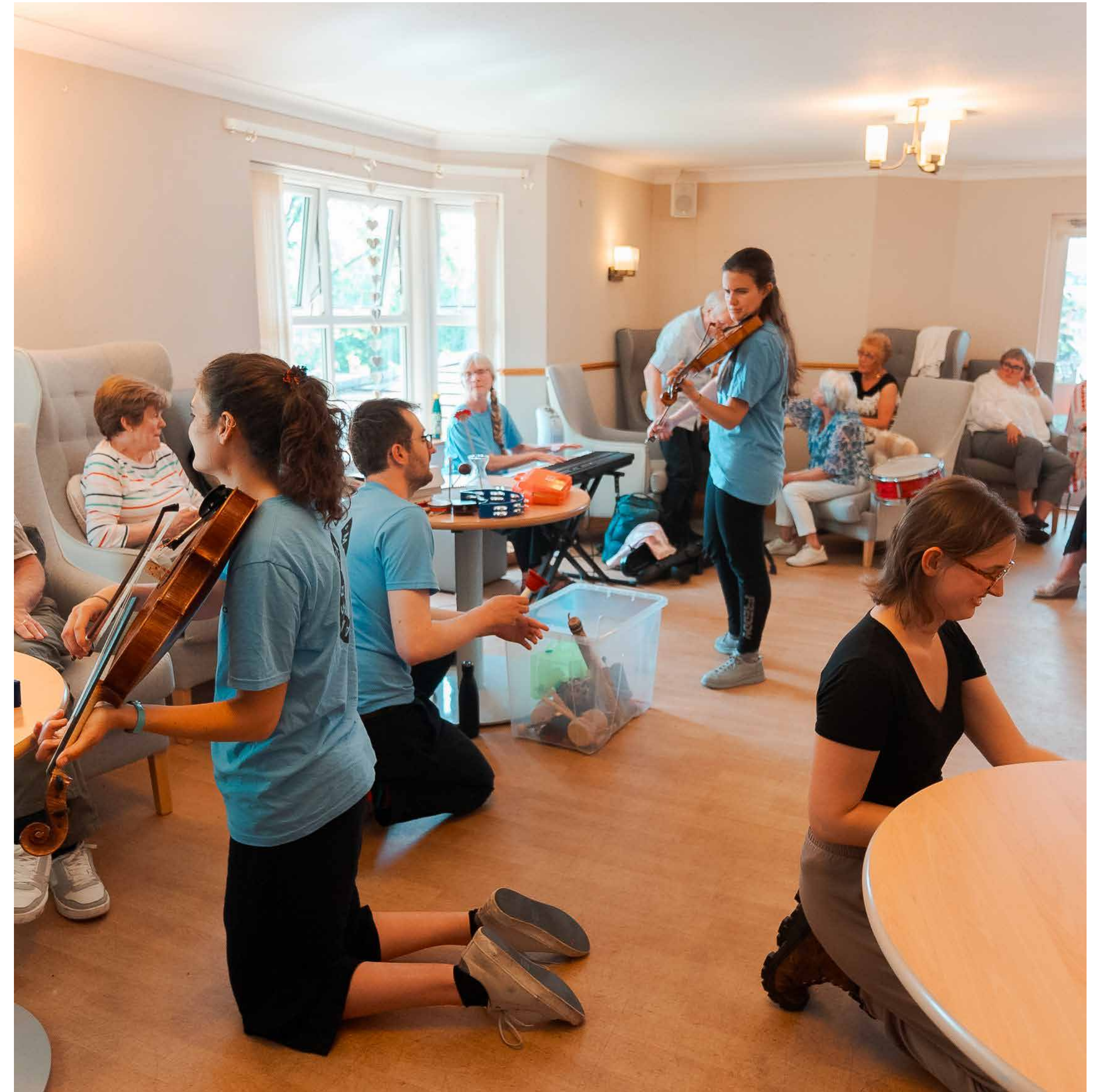
# The Fellowship in Pendle

**As part of the Fellowship, Fellows will work closely with various local communities in Pendle in Lancashire. Manchester Camerata and The Ruth Sutton Trust for Music have a longstanding cultural relationship with Pendle, originating in local performances and the support of the Pendle Young Musicians Bursary. It's through this that mutual values and strong friendships have evolved, resulting in the creation of the Fellowship programme.**

Over the last three years, our Fellows have helped us to establish a Music in Mind Music Café in Pendleside Hospice, collaborate with the Pendle Community Orchestra, and lead folk sessions to help preserve the Lancastrian folk tradition.

Fellows have also performed in local schools to spark interest in learning an instrument and invited young players to attend Manchester Camerata concerts, offering a glimpse into the world of professional music-making.

One of Camerata's priorities next year is continuing to expand our work in Pendle, be it with young people, local community groups, with older people including those living with dementia, or with local audiences. We want this work to build on the values and friendships we have, and to create new ones for the future.



# Application Process

Please complete the following [online application form](#) and submit an anonymised CV and recent video recording by email to:

Max Thomas at [mthomas@manchestercamerata.com](mailto:mthomas@manchestercamerata.com)

- **The online application form includes a written expression of interest and a project proposal.** If an alternative format of submission suits you better, let us know and we will work with you to find another option.
- **The deadline for receiving the completed online form and anonymised CV is Sunday 21 June at 23:59.** Please remove your name, address, and photo, if you usually include this on your CV.
- **A recent video recording of your playing** (this must be 4-5 minutes in length) should also be emailed before the deadline. For guidelines on creating your recording please see the following pages.

Once you have applied, we request that you also complete this [anonymous ED&I online survey](#). This anonymous data will help inform Manchester Camerata's organisational development regarding its Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion policy and objectives.

Candidates selected to progress will be invited to an **in-person audition and interview**. These will be held on **20th July 2026 in Manchester**. There is sadly no flexibility on this date, so please keep it available. You will hear whether you have an audition or interview by early July. Auditions will be held without an accompanist.



# Tips for making your recording

- Your recording must be between **4-5 minutes long**.
- Place the device you're using to record about 2 metres away from your instrument.
- Make sure all **background noise is muted** before you start.
- Record a few bars, then listen back to ensure the volume levels are correct and that you can be seen in shot.
- Place your recording device on a tripod, music stand or propped on a secure surface so that you are in the shot throughout the entire video.
- If you're using a separate microphone to record audio then keep it in the same place throughout the entire recording to ensure there is a continuous volume level.
- Please record in a well-lit space so that it is easy to see your face and instrument.

## Suggested devices to use

It is important to note that the panel will be listening for the quality of your musical and technical ability, not the quality of your audio equipment. Recommended devices to record your submission are:

- Mobile Phone
- Tablet
- Zoom (ensuring 'Enable Original Sound' is turned on when recording)
- Video camera
- Any other device you may have that will be able to record video and sound.

While we will not be assessing the quality of the audio equipment used, we recommend that you ensure your recording demonstrates your playing to the best of your ability.

## Important information

- Your video must be submitted as an mp4 file, recorded in one take and not edited in any way.
- Any submissions that we believe to be edited will be removed from the audition process.
- Please do not speak or disclose your identity in any way during your recording.
- Only the Creative Producer will view your video to ensure there is no editing and your identity will remain anonymous.
- The panel will only receive the extracted MP3 (audio) file from your submission.
- Please send your file with your full name and position applying for.
- If you have any further questions or concerns regarding your submission or the overall auditions process, please get in contact.



# Thank You

Please contact our Creative Producer, Max Thomas, with any questions you might have.

Email: [mthomas@manchestercamerata.com](mailto:mthomas@manchestercamerata.com)

Thank you so much for your interest in being a **Manchester Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellow**. We really appreciate the time you have taken so far, and for considering this to be part of your musical home for the next year.

