

FINCHLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR BRIEF

The orchestra

Finchley Symphony Orchestra is a successful non-professional orchestra in north London, formed more than 60 years ago. We generally give five high standard concerts a year, two of them jointly with Finchley Chamber Choir. We are constantly looking for new challenges and opportunities.

Our repertoire is varied – including in recent seasons large-scale pieces such as Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2, Sibelius's Symphony No. 3 and Kodály's Dances of Galánta alongside works such as Mozart's Symphony No. 40, Ravel's 'Tombeau de Couperin' and the two Dvořák Serenades. Our concerts with Finchley Chamber Choir have included Stravinsky's Mass and Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

We work with fine young soloists some of whom, including Tasmin Little and Valeriy Sokolov, have attained international status. We also work with young composers and in recent years gave first performances of pieces by George Holloway and Richard Bullen.

Most of our concerts are at our home venue, Trinity Church in North Finchley, but we have also performed at the Hastings International Piano Concerto Competition, Hampstead Garden Suburb music festival, St John's Smith Square and St James's Piccadilly.

We rehearse weekly except during school holidays. We work hard but like to remain friendly – our aim is to enjoy making music together and there is an important social side to our orchestra. We are a registered charity and a member of Making Music.

For more information, including details of our 2018-19 season, recent concert programmes and selected audio excerpts, please see our website at

www.finchleymusic.org

The position

David Lardi, our Musical Director for over 40 years, is cutting down on his conducting workload. He will continue to conduct Finchley Chamber Choir and the two concerts we give together each season – a concert of Christmas favourites and the end-of-season concert in July.

We are therefore looking to appoint an enthusiastic and talented professional to rehearse and conduct the orchestra for its purely orchestral concerts.

There are generally three of these every season, each having between 7 and 9 Thursday evening rehearsals and a full rehearsal on the day, together occupying us for over two-thirds of our year.

As well as bringing a high standard of professionalism to preparing and performing we will expect the person appointed to meet the following objectives:

- to commit to the orchestra by being available for all relevant concerts and rehearsals, other than in exceptional circumstances
- to work closely and constructively with our elected committee and our leader, George Mattar
- to contribute to maintaining and growing the playing membership of the orchestra
- to play a key part in planning future seasons, and contribute to securing the services of suitable soloists
- to lead in developing the orchestra's capabilities and activities in line with objectives agreed with the committee.

The person

Candidates must have significant experience of rehearsing and performing with orchestras of at least a high amateur standard. They must be capable of training and developing the orchestra to achieve high standards of performance while maintaining an environment in which everyone enjoys making music.

The selection process

If you would like to be considered for this position please send a full CV and a letter setting out how you meet the criteria described and how you would go about delivering the objectives listed above by email (preferably) or post to arrive not later than 31st October 2018

Email to: info@finchleysymphony.org

Post to: Finchley Symphony Orchestra
29 Reddings
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL8 7LA

All applications will be considered by the committee and shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview during November or early December.

We will invite suitable candidates to take a trial rehearsal. We intend that one will then be invited to rehearse and perform with the orchestra for our concert on 16th March 2019, and one for our concert on 18th May 2019. Applicants should indicate in their application whether they will be available for all relevant rehearsals in 2019 and for the concerts themselves, should they be selected. The rehearsal schedule is accessible through the Members page of our website.

We hope to be able to appoint a new conductor from September 2019. This appointment would be for three years (renewable), the first year being probationary.

September 2018