# Keele University Philharmonic Ensembles CONDUCTOR ROLE DESCRIPTION - Orchestra

Keele University Philharmonic Orchestra is a student led, Student Union and University supported society made up of both Keele University students and local community members. Historically the Orchestra has had close ties with the Music Department at the University however more recently due to course realignment the primary aims of the Orchestra have been to support the student experience and to give both students and local community members an opportunity to participate in music performing. Members of the orchestra participate for pleasure outside of their day-to-day education and work. Most members have achieved at least grade 6 (most are 7/8) however there are no strict requirements. At present, the orchestra is looking to rejuvenate both its membership and performance opportunities post-pandemic. Currently students from the orchestra are standing in as conductors so they are looking to fill the role of Orchestra Conductor.  
  
The Orchestra rehearses weekly during term time on Thursday evenings.

The contract will be on a casual basis for review per academic year. There will be an initial paid trial period. The qualities required for the person filling the role of the Orchestra Conductor are as follows:

* A professional musician with excellent aural, musicianship and interpersonal skills.
* The ability to work well with the Orchestra’s two string specialists, making good use of their skills and knowledge.
* Awareness and understanding of the Orchestra’s student society status and the need to mentor the student committee in terms of the practical day-to-day running of the Orchestra.
* Ability to work with students as well as non-student members of the Orchestra drawn from the local community.
* An adaptable conductor with no specific personal agenda in terms of what the Orchestra might play. The ability to work together and to advise and mentor the students/student committee and come to sensible conclusions regarding choice of suitable repertoire, considering both the forces available and the abilities of the players. The student committee will suggest options for repertoire as part of the process and work with the conductor to decide on its suitability.
* The ability to support the learning and development of members of the Orchestra, whether students or external, kindly, helpfully and with encouragement and enthusiasm.
* To be part of creating a positive, enjoyable, educational experience to members of the Orchestra and to regard the conductor’s role as helping members to play to the best of their ability and with as much refinement as possible so that they can enjoy their musicmaking to the full.
* Ideally situated within commutable distance in proximity to the University and interested in settling into the role for some time as the Orchestra needs to be gradually built up again in terms of size and skill.
* The adaptability to mentor student conductors, should they wish to conduct a piece for the concert.

## Keele Philharmonic Orchestra (conductor).

Hourly rate: £32 (including holiday allowance).  
Expected hours 2022/23: 132 hours plus travel allowance (to be negotiated).

Rehearsal and performance schedule for 2021/22:  
All rehearsals bar performance days commence at 7pm and run until 9:30pm.

Plus, on top of this there will be work around preparing the music and supporting development of the orchestra. The conductor can also work with the society to think about programme options for 2022/23 academic year, in line with the ability of the current orchestra members.

Rehearsal schedule 2022/23 academic year: every Thursday evening (7-9:30pm) during university term time with performances usually taking place the Saturday following the end of each term. There will be a concert rehearsal on the day of the concert with times tbc.

Semester one: Monday 26 September 2022 - Friday 20 January 2023

* Performance Saturday 17 December

Winter vacation: Saturday 17 December 2022 - Sunday 8 January 2023 – no rehearsals

Semester two: Monday 23 January 2023 - Friday 9 June 2023

* Performance Saturday 29 April

Spring vacation: Saturday 25 March 2023 - Sunday 16 April 2023 – no rehearsals

NOTE: The orchestra requires at least two weeks' notice for missing a rehearsal except in extenuating circumstances such as illness.

DEADLINE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE ROLE: **Friday 16 September, midday.**

Following receipt of expression of interest successful candidates at this stage will be invited to trials with the orchestra which will last 45 minutes. Details of what will be expected at trial will be shared to successful candidates. Candidates will receive travel expenses for attending trials.

Trials will take place on the following dates:  
**Thursday 13th October 2022**  
**Thursday 20th October 2022**

For further information about the role please contact:  
Kerry Jones, Development Manager for Arts & Public Engagement, Keele University – [k.m.jones@keele.ac.uk](mailto:k.m.jones@keele.ac.uk) or 01782 734908. If you have any direct questions for the orchestra Kerry Jones can share these with the committee for feedback.

Role description created by:   
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