

Job title:	Orchestra Section Principal
Status:	Permanent
Reports to:	Orchestra Manager
Supervisory Responsibility:	Members of Section, extra orchestra when necessary

Main purpose of job:

To inspire your section musically and be responsible for the overall artistic and musical quality of your section and leading by example, act as an ambassador for the orchestra creating a positive and supportive atmosphere enabling everyone to perform at their best.

Key responsibilities:

- To lead and manage the section in standards of professionalism and behaviours during all scheduled activity;
- To engage meaningfully with discussions about seating and layout for both artistic and health and safety related considerations and work with the Orchestra Management in the resolution of issues pertaining to the Orchestra set-ups in all venues;
- Work closely with the Music Library on all matters pertaining to the section's music requirements.
- To manage the section rotas and time off whilst maintaining the highest artistic standards. Whilst this may be a task delegated to section members, it is recognised that the overall responsibility lies with the Section Leader;
- Recording the sit-ups occurring within the section and reporting them to the Orchestra Manager. Whilst this may be a task delegated to section members, it is recognised that the overall responsibility lies with the Section Leader;
- Promote and support the Opera North Education initiative with practical engagement and giving and receiving advice if necessary;
- To undertake informal one-to-one meetings with section members to discuss musical & artistic performance and proactively encourage training/personal development. This should be a two-way conversation giving musicians the opportunity to discuss their performance, training/personal development needs and contribution to the section;
- To proactively maintain open communications with the Music Director, Director of Orchestra and Chorus and visiting artists/conductors to achieve the highest artistic standards;
- To lead the musical and artistic aspects of the Orchestra recruitment process:
 - Provide audition repertoire and requirements;
 - Lead the auditions ensuring an excellent welcome to prospective employees;

- Liaise with Orchestra Management regarding all aspects of the process so they are able to provide appropriate support;
 - Lead the process to achieve a clear recommendation for appointment to Opera North within agreed time frames.
- To proactively advise the Orchestra Management on musical or artistic performance issues within the Orchestra. These may include –
 - Provide an assessment of any performance issues raised;
 - Advise on outcomes/improvements;
 - Contribute to capability procedures as required;
- To demonstrate due regard for confidentiality in all matters relating to recruitment, capability, disciplinary and grievances, and other sensitive matters relating to musicians.
- Promote and support the Company's policies associated with the rehearsal and performance work-place duty - Health and Safety issues such as noise regulations and the Alcohol and Drugs Policy.
- Promote and support the Company's HR policies including Respect at Work and Conflict of Interest
- Attend Section Principal and other meetings, as called by either the Music Director or Director of Orchestra and Chorus.
- Actively participate in the general activities of the Orchestra, such as attendance at meetings, promotional activity, outreach and education work, demonstrating professionalism at all times.
- Demonstrates respect for others, including being fully prepared and ready to play at the start of every session.

Additional Responsibilities

- Any other duties as may reasonably be required within the level and scope of the post.
- Ensuring the highest standards of professional performance are maintained.
- Supporting and wherever possible contributing to equality, diversity and inclusion within the organisation.
- Taking reasonable care of your own health and safety and that of any person who may be affected by your acts or omissions, including following Opera North health and safety procedures and co-operating with the organisation on health and safety issues.
- Participating in arrangements for performance review and appraisal.
- Ensuring that professional skills are regularly updated through participation in artistic, learning and development activities.