

sinfonia
VIVA

Application Pack

**Section Principal First Violin (1.2)
and Principal First Violin (1.3)**



Sinfonia Viva

Leader & Artistic Advisor: Sophie Rosa **Patrons: The Kanneh-Mason Family**

Sinfonia Viva is the only professional orchestra in the East Midlands, an area including six counties and covering 6,500 square miles. From our administrative base in Derby, we have a national reach through our concerts and creative community projects, across in person performances and projects, and digital delivery. Innovation, creativity, participation, and collaboration are hallmarks of the Orchestra's work, driven by our overarching aim to enable as many people as possible to engage with orchestral music.

Working across the East Midlands, from the larger urban centres of Nottingham and Leicester to the rural communities of Derbyshire and Lincolnshire, requires Sinfonia Viva to be a flexible ensemble. We give full scale chamber orchestra performances in purpose-built concert halls, cathedrals, and an annual open-air concert in Derby, in addition to regularly working as a string orchestra and in smaller chamber ensembles in venues ranging from churches to community spaces. This broad range of performances is reflected by the diverse audiences who engage with our concerts. Our concerts in outside of concert hall settings will often attract audiences who are representative of the communities we serve, with many attending an orchestral performance for the first time.

Sinfonia Viva places equal importance on our work off the concert platform, and our award-winning creative project work has a national reputation. We regularly deliver projects in Essex, East Yorkshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk, alongside our programme within the East Midlands. All our creative programmes, whether for people living with dementia, refugees and asylum seekers, disabled and learning disabled children and young people, or in education settings in areas of socio-economic disadvantage, take a collaborative approach to creating new work. The involvement of Sinfonia Viva musicians within these projects, as creative collaborators, support artists, or performers within final sharing performances, is key to the success of these programmes.

For the last 40 years Sinfonia Viva has been a key part of the cultural life of the East Midlands, and as we move forward after the disruption and challenges of the last two years, we remain deeply committed to providing access and opportunities to orchestral performances for our communities, and to champion the diverse breadth of repertoire and talent within our sector.

Diversity & Inclusion

Sinfonia Viva is committed to ensuring that we are an inclusive and diverse organisation, across our Board, management team, artists, Patrons, and programming, enabling us to become representative of the audiences and communities we serve.

We welcome, and encourage, applicants with a wealth of lived experiences, and from a range of backgrounds, who can support Sinfonia Viva's ambitions to become fully inclusive and reflective of our communities, who can contribute to broadening our knowledge of diverse repertoire and help identify potential collaborators and artists who share our approach to inclusive practice.

We recognise that we are on a journey of learning and improvement to enable us to fulfil our aims around diversity and inclusion, and encourage all musicians, partners, and staff to engage with us to help make Sinfonia Viva a truly equitable and inclusive organisation. Sinfonia Viva committed to the PRS Keychange 50/50 pledge in 2019, to ensure gender balance within our organisation, and is a member of Black Lives in Music.



The Purpose of the Role and Person Specification

Core Member – Section Principal No. 2 First Violin (sitting up to Leader as required)

Core Member – Principal No. 3 First Violin (sitting up to Section Principal as required, occasionally being required to sit up to Leader)

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding and flexible musician, who is able to contribute fully to all aspects of Sinfonia Viva's work, including our creative projects programme.

The Section Principal First Violin sits at the number 2 seat within the section and may be asked to sit-up to lead the section, as well as leading/directing smaller and chamber ensembles.

The Principal First Violin sits at the number 3 seat within the section and may be asked to sit up to Section Principal, and in some instances may also be required to lead the section and lead/direct smaller and chamber ensembles.

Core members of Sinfonia Viva will be engaged to work across the full spectrum of our activity, including the opportunity to work as support musicians on our creative projects programme. This element of our work is central to Sinfonia Viva's mission, and part of the recruitment process all 2nd stage auditionees will be required to share their interest or abilities in this area – see the audition process outline below for further details.

The successful candidates will be open and flexible, comfortable working within a variety of venues, including non-conventional settings, and able to perform a diverse range of repertoire – from Baroque and Classical, to new works, including those co-created with workshop participants – and be confident working in a mix of ensembles, including non-traditional instrumental combinations. They will be an effective communicator, able to engage with audiences in a range of different settings and environments and will act as an advocate for Sinfonia Viva and its work.

Sinfonia Viva's approach to collaborative working extends beyond partnership projects, and we welcome the contributions of our musicians to help inform repertoire decisions, guest artists, and performance formats.

Between April 2021 and March 2022 Sinfonia Viva gave 28 performances (in a variety of ensemble sizes and combinations), engaging with over 26,000 people. Performances took place across the East Midlands, Essex and East Yorkshire, in concert halls, cathedrals, theatres, outdoor stages, schools and community venues.

Sinfonia Viva musicians are remunerated in accordance with the organisation's agreement with the Musicians Union. Details of current fees can be found at www.musiciansunion.org.uk

Responsibilities and Duties

Both roles will include, but are not limited to:

- Rehearsals and performances in a range of venues and formats
- Digital projects and recordings
- Chamber music and ensemble performances
- Contributing repertoire/guest artist suggestions to the management team
- Providing bowings for performances if sitting-up to Leader position
- Introducing pieces within concerts

Both roles will also be expected to participate within our creative projects programme, roles within this area can include, but are not limited to:

- Performing as part of a small or chamber ensemble in community or educational settings, including performances alongside participants
- Participating in post-concert, family focussed, instrument demonstrations and engagement activities
- Participating within creative projects as a support musician, including attendance at planning and evaluation meetings, and within the delivery of workshops

Application Process

Application deadline and digital submission: 5pm on Thursday 15th December 2022

Second round in person audition: Held on 10th, 12th and 16th January 2023

Venue: National Centre for Early Music, St Margaret's Church, Walmgate, York, YO1 9TL

Sinfonia Viva's recruitment process is over two stages of auditions and a trial period. Each stage of the process is detailed below.

By submitting an application, you will be considered for both Section Principal No. 2 First Violin and Principal No. 3 First Violin. If you are successful in reaching the second stage of the audition process, you will be able to indicate if you prefer a specific position, or if you would like to be considered for both positions.

All our orchestral jobs are managed through Musical Chairs, and the application process is outlined below. Please do not send your applications directly to Sinfonia Viva, but if you require any assistance in applying, please contact matthew@sinfoniaviva.co.uk

Step 1: Application

Please complete the online application form on Musical Chairs, including the Orchestral Applicant Monitoring form (please note that no data provided in this monitoring form can be associated with the applicant, Sinfonia Viva will only receive aggregated data) by the closing date of **5pm on Thursday 15th December 2022**

Step 2: Digital Submission

At the point of application you will be required to upload a video to Musical Chairs no later than **5pm on Thursday 15th December 2022**. All first round submissions will be listened to by the panel, and applications will be anonymised, with the panel only receiving the audio track. Your recorded submission (of a maximum of 10 minutes) should include:

- The exposition from a Mozart Violin Concerto of the applicant's choice (no cadenza)
- Strauss *Die Fledermaus Overture* (excerpt)
- Tchaikovsky *Serenade: Waltz* (excerpt)
- Schoenberg *Verklärte Nacht* (excerpt)

Digital Submission Guidelines

- Your video recording must be performed 'as live' in one continuous take
- Your video recording must be unedited
- Repertoire should be recorded in the specified order and without piano accompaniment
- You must not speak during the recording
- Your recording should be in landscape where possible, and your instrument should be face on and central to the camera
- You should aim to record in a space without background noise, and should stand 2-3 metres from the recording device
- Your video recording can be made with a smartphone camera or tablet. You do not need a professional grade camera. Please contact matthew@sinfoniaviva.co.uk if you do not have access to a smartphone or tablet to discuss alternative approaches
- Your video is a private submission and will only be listened to by the panel
- The panel will only hear the audio of your submission, with visuals and other identifying features removed from the application to ensure anonymity
- The audition panel understand the nature of recorded submissions and will judge your qualities as a player rather than the recording



Step 3: In person audition

Successful applicants will be notified by **Thursday 22nd December 2022** and invited to a second stage, in person audition in York on one of the 10th, 12th or 16th January 2023. If shortlisted for a second stage, candidates will be sent an excerpt pack. An accompanist will be provided for the Mozart Concerto and contrasting piece if required, there will be an opportunity to rehearse with the pianist for up to 10 minutes immediately prior to the audition.

There will be 3 elements to this second stage audition process:

- 1) Live Audition to include:
 - The exposition from a Mozart Violin Concerto of the applicant's choice (no cadenza)
 - A contrasting piece of your own choice
 - Mendelssohn *Symphony No. 4 - First Movement* (excerpt)
 - Tchaikovsky *Serenade: Waltz* (excerpt)
 - Coleridge Taylor *4 Novelletten for String Orchestra Op. 52 - No. 3 Valse*
 - Schoenberg *Verklärte Nacht* (excerpt)

2) Chamber Round

This round will require applicants to join a string quartet alongside Sinfonia Viva core players in a short rehearsal (max. 15 minutes) of Haydn's String Quartet Op. 76 No. 2 "The Fifths" - First Movement Allegro.

3) Community activity

Due to the amount of activity Sinfonia Viva deliver within schools and communities, this element of the process will provide an opportunity for candidates to have an informal conversation about their experience and/or interests in this aspect of our work with Sinfonia Viva's Deputy Chief Executive: Programmes and a Creative Music Leader. As part of this process musicians will be required to introduce and demonstrate their instrument as they would to a **primary school audience**. There will also be an **optional** improvisation activity.

All applicants successful at this stage will be notified by **5pm** on **Monday 23rd January** at the latest and invited to undertake a trial period as a core player with Sinfonia Viva.

Step 4: Trial Period

This stage will last a maximum of 12 months, to enable candidates to participate in all aspects of Sinfonia Viva's work. Trialists will be required to perform in orchestral concerts, smaller ensembles within educational and community projects, and undertake at least one community/education programme as a support musician during this period. Appropriate training and support will be provided to those musicians who progress to a Trial stage but have little or limited experience within outreach activity.

Musicians who are successful within this Trial Period will be invited to join Sinfonia Viva as a core player on a freelance basis.

Other information

- The panel at each round will comprise of the Orchestra Leader, and Section Principals and/or Principal players from Sinfonia Viva to a maximum of four musicians at each stage.
- The excerpts can be downloaded from Musical Chairs, if you require any assistance with accessing the audition booklets please contact **matthew@sinfoniaviva.co.uk**
- The second stage auditions will be held in a fully accessible venue, however, if you are invited to the second stage and require any reasonable adjustments please contact **matthew@sinfoniaviva.co.uk**
- Sinfonia Viva does not usually pay travel costs to musicians to attend auditions, however, if the cost of travel to York for the second stage represents a barrier to you considering whether to apply or not, please contact **matthew@sinfoniaviva.co.uk** for a confidential conversation to discuss this

Eligibility and Right to work in the UK

Please note that we are only able to accept applications from musicians who are eligible to live and work within the UK.

Musicians who are invited to an in person second stage audition will be required to bring original documentary evidence of their right to work in the UK to this audition.

Further information about which documentation is required will be provided to those musicians invited to the second round.

Safeguarding children, young people, and adults at risk

Sinfonia Viva is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of all the children, young people and adults at risk with whom we work and expect all staff and musicians to share this commitment. Musicians offered a Trial period will be required to complete a check with the Disclosure and Barring Service to ensure that they are able to work across the full breadth of Sinfonia Viva activity, including work within schools, with children and young people, and with adults at risk.





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