

London Philharmonic Orchestra

LPO Conducting Fellowship 2027/28 – Information for Applicants

The London Philharmonic Orchestra is delighted to invite applications to our **Conducting Fellowship** for the 2027/28 season. This flagship programme seeks to support the development of the world-class conductors of the future, through offering an intensive opportunity to work closely with the Orchestra to **up to two** outstanding early-career conductors from backgrounds currently under-represented in conductors of professional, world-class orchestras.

We believe that talent is indiscriminate, yet people from certain backgrounds and communities continue to be under-represented in the orchestral sector. The LPO Conducting Fellowship aims to promote diversity and inclusivity in classical music as a whole, to lead eventually to a sector that is more reflective of the wider population. We invite applications from conductors from historically under-represented communities in terms of race, sex, gender identity, socio-economic backgrounds, neurodiversity, disability or other under-represented group. Providing artistic and professional development experiences at the highest level of excellence to early-career conductors from under-represented backgrounds is an important goal of the programme.

What is included in the Fellowship?

Guided by the LPO's Principal Conductor, Edward Gardner, the Fellow Conductor(s) will become immersed in the life of the Orchestra, getting to know players, artists and staff, developing skills and knowledge, and broadening their professional network. The LPO prides itself as being a welcoming and supportive orchestra and sets out to ensure the Fellow Conductor(s) become embedded in the LPO community. They will be invited to attend rehearsals and concerts conducted by the Principal Conductor and other conductors, and will also be offered conducting opportunities with the LPO and its Rising Talent ensembles.

The LPO Conducting Fellowship will include:

- Opportunities to conduct the Orchestra in regional and offsite performances, in educational programmes, and ensembles of its Rising Talent programmes
- Assisting opportunities and mentorship with Edward Gardner
- Full immersion into the life of the Orchestra during the period of the Fellowship, with the aim of forming the basis of a longer-term professional relationship

In addition, and considering the individual needs of the Fellow Conductor(s), the Fellowship may also include:

- Assisting opportunities and 1-1 sessions with other LPO titled and guest conductors
- Feedback from LPO musicians
- Meetings with LPO's resident and featured composers
- Professional development opportunities through sessions with LPO personnel, visiting artists and access to the LPO's wide network of industry professionals
- Opportunities to participate in wider LPO promotional activity such as pre-concert talks and social media activity
- Additional tailored support around navigating the barriers specific to the Fellow Conductor

Fees will be paid at the LPO prevailing rates for early-career conductors, and contribution towards travel and accommodation will be provided if required for non-UK based conductors.

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Who can apply?

The LPO is committed to advancing equality and inclusive practice in all areas: recruitment, artistic programme, and working environment. **The Conducting Fellowship is open to applicants from backgrounds which are currently under-represented in conductors of professional, world-class orchestras.** We ask applicants to self-identify their eligibility in this area. Eligible criteria may include, but are not limited to, under-represented racial, ethnic or socio-economic backgrounds, and may also include sex, gender, neurodiversity and disability.

We particularly welcome applications from candidates who are:

- from the global majority (this includes, but is not limited to people of Black African, Black British, Black Caribbean, South Asian, East Asian, South East Asian, Middle Eastern, Arab and Latinx backgrounds, as well as people indigenous to the global south)
- female
- trans or non-binary
- Disabled

as they are currently under-represented among the conductors we work with.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate extensive background and training in orchestral conducting, and be able to demonstrate ability in developing and conducting programmes, excellent musicianship, and communication skills.

Applicants must be over 18 and not in full-time undergraduate education. UK-based conductors are strongly encouraged to apply and will be prioritised.

How to apply

Complete the [online application form](#) including uploaded documents/materials by **9:00AM** (UK time) on **Monday 2 November 2026**.

If an online application form is not accessible and applicants require an alternative format, please contact Alison.Jones@lpo.org.uk or call 020 7840 4213.

Application requirements including audition information are outlined below.

What is the selection process?

All online applications will be reviewed by the LPO's artistic team. Successful applicants will then be invited for a live audition in London. Applicants who attend the live audition will have the opportunity to conduct the Orchestra in rehearsal, and all musicians will be invited to provide feedback. The committee on the audition day will include the LPO's Artistic Director, Principal Conductor, a board member and a number of LPO musicians, who will then identify the conductor(s) to be offered Fellowship positions for the 2027/28 season. The LPO will seek to ensure that a diversity of backgrounds are represented among the selection committee.

Feedback

Due to the anticipated high number of applications, we are unable to give individual feedback to applicants who are not offered an audition. Applicants who take part in the audition may request feedback within a given deadline.

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Key dates

- Applications open: September 2026
- Deadline to submit applications: **9:00AM (UK time) on Monday 2 November 2026**
- Invitations for live audition extended by: Thurs 17 December 2026
- Shortlisted applicants only: Submission of additional required materials by 9.00AM (UK time) on **Thursday 28 January 2027**
- Orchestra audition and panel interview in London: **Sunday 28 February 2027**

Formal offers will be made shortly after the audition date. The successful candidate(s) will need to be available for the dates offered in order to be confirmed as an LPO Fellow Conductor.

Application requirements and audition information

General Qualifications: Applicants must have an extensive background and training in orchestral conducting; demonstrate ability in developing and conducting programmes; possess excellent musicianship and communicative skills. The LPO is committed to the diversity of our community – including the community of conductors – by fostering inclusive and supportive environment and by actively shaping the future of the performing arts.

I. Complete the [online application form](#), which includes submitting:

- Applicant contact and demographic information, and any access requirements
- A statement self-identifying how the applicant is under-represented in conductors of world-class professional orchestras (or video statement covering this information) (100 words)
- A statement outlining why they'd like to do the Conducting Fellowship and how they are a suitable candidate (max 200 words) (or video alternative)
- CV (max 3 sides) and biography of max 200 words (or video alternative covering this information). Please do not add any additional documents or endorsements, only the CV and biography.
- Links to 1 – 2 videos of the applicant conducting a large ensemble. Videos should show the musicians' view of the conductor. (The quality of recording/video itself will not be assessed)

If an online application form is not accessible and you require an alternative format, please contact Alison.Jones@lpo.org.uk or call 020 7840 4213.

If you are invited for the Orchestra audition:

II. **Conducting:** Prepare three pieces to conduct the Orchestra in London on Sunday 28 February 2027:

- GRIEG: Piano concerto, mvt 1
- BRAHMS: Symphony no.1, mvt 1
- STRAVINSKY: Danses Concertantes

Each candidate will have up to 20 minutes and may be interrupted by the Principal Conductor who will also announce the exact selection for conducting.

III. **Programming:** Demonstrate commitment to programming, widening participation and audience engagement through the following task:

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Devise a pre-concert Showcase performance (a), and an evening full London Philharmonic Orchestra concert (b), imagining that both are taking place at the Royal Festival Hall on the same evening. Both the pre-concert ensemble and full orchestral performance should fit the LPO's current season theme of '[In Search of Purpose](#)'.

(a) Pre-concert Showcase performance:

A showcase performance for the LPO Junior Artists: a group of 8 talented teenage musicians from backgrounds currently under-represented in professional UK orchestras:

<https://lpo.org.uk/project/lpo-junior-artists/>

Considering the aim of the LPO Junior Artists programme and instrumentation available, design a 35-minute chamber concert programme for an ensemble of 8 Junior Artists playing alongside LPO musicians.

Full instrumentation available: 2.2.2.2 / 2.2.2.1 / 2P / strings: 3.3.3.2.1

Of which Junior Artists: 1 flute, 1 clarinet, 1 trumpet, 1 trombone, 2 violin, 1 d.bass, 1 percussion

The programme should ensure that the 8 Junior Artists perform in as much as possible. The LPO players do not all need to play in every piece. You do not need to use all the professional players. Your programme should include a range of music, including music by composers of under-represented backgrounds.

(b) Evening concert:

Devise an evening full concert programme for the London Philharmonic Orchestra, imagining this is taking place immediately after the pre-concert performance above. Full orchestral forces would be available. Both Showcase and Evening concert should link with the 'In Search of Purpose' theme.

If you are invited for the audition day, your programming task should be submitted (as PDF or Word doc) by **Thurs 28 Jan 2027**.

You are welcome to add a brief programme note about each performance you devise if you wish, but please do not exceed 100 words for each.

- IV. Interview:** On the audition day, participate in a 15-minute discussion/interview with the audition panel about yourself as a conductor, including responding to any queries about your submission in part III above.

If you have any queries about the LPO Conducting Fellowship, please contact Alison.Jones@lpo.org.uk or call 020 7840 4213.

About the London Philharmonic Orchestra

Uniquely groundbreaking and exhilarating to watch and hear, the London Philharmonic Orchestra has been celebrated as one of the world's great orchestras since 1932. We are driven by our passion for delivering artistry on stage and humanity beyond it, which we achieve through our exceptional programmes, pioneering education and community projects, acclaimed recordings and trailblazing international tours. The Orchestra balances a long and distinguished history with its reputation as one of the UK's most forward-looking

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ensembles, and is internationally recognised as a leading world orchestra providing excellence, versatility, invention and inclusivity in all that we do.

We are committed to sharing the power of world-class music with the broadest possible audience. Our programmes provide the leading talent development schemes for emerging instrumentalists, composers and conductors; first musical experiences for children and families; engaging and inspiring opportunities for schools; significant programmes with disabled adults and young people with SEND, and projects that use the power of music to enhance wellbeing and connection.

We place a strong value on Equity, Diversity and Belonging in all that we do, with significant development and programming initiatives in this area. All of our programmes allow participants to bring their creativity, enthusiasm and unique perspectives into the LPO to revitalise, enrich and enhance our practice and relevance to the world in which we live. We offer an inclusive, respectful environment where you will find a warm welcome and a strong sense of belonging, whatever your background.

Our home is at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, where we're at the beating heart of London's cultural life. You'll also find us at our resident venues in Brighton, Eastbourne and Saffron Walden, and on tour worldwide. In 2024 we celebrated 60 years as Resident Symphony Orchestra at Glyndebourne Festival Opera, combining the magic of opera with Glyndebourne's glorious setting in the Sussex countryside.

Edward Gardner has been our Principal Conductor since 2021, succeeding Vladimir Jurowski who in the same year became Conductor Emeritus. Karina Canellakis is our current Principal Guest Conductor, and Sir George Benjamin our Composer-in-Residence.

The LPO prides itself at being on the forefront of technology, continually finding new and innovative ways to share our music with millions of people worldwide. The LPO has 1.8m followers across all social media channels alongside c.260 million annual streams across Spotify and Apple, and we continue our reign as the most-followed professional orchestra on TikTok. We can be heard on award-winning film soundtracks such as The Lord of the Rings and on computer games, and we recorded 'Backstage with the London Philharmonic Orchestra', a four-part docuseries with Sky Arts, which was nominated for a 2025 BAFTA. We also reach audiences through our partnership with Marquee TV, which allows us to broadcast live concerts and enables better accessibility for viewers to share and relive the wonder of our music from anywhere and everywhere.

At the heart of the LPO we champion a strong commitment to the communities we serve, reflecting on, engaging with, and acting upon the challenges of today's society. Such values are also recognised through our music, with recent seasons' programmes exploring key moments in history and topics such as migration, the environment and the power of creativity. We are committed to ensuring that our operations are as sustainable as possible and that the Orchestra delivers significant impact across all areas of its activity.

What previous LPO Fellow Conductors say:

"One aspect of the Fellowship that had a particularly significant impact on me was the confidence I gained from working with an orchestra of this level. Conducting the LPO under real professional conditions made me much more comfortable with the pace, expectations and standards of a top orchestra. I also gained a much better understanding of the working culture of London orchestras. Experiencing this environment from the inside was extremely valuable and broadened my perspective as a conductor." – LPO Fellow Conductor 2025/26

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“Not many orchestras offer so many real conducting chances to [emerging conductors], but the LPO Fellowship gave me a wide range of valuable opportunities. Working with such high-level musicians is a rare and precious experience for a young conductor. The orchestra followed my direction and listened to my ideas in rehearsals, but at the same time, I learned so much from observing and responding to them. It was truly a two-way exchange.” – LPO Fellow Conductor, 2024/25

“Becoming a conductor is a mysterious path, and opportunities for early career conductors are incredibly rare. ... The LPO has received me with open arms and everybody – from the team working in the office, to the musicians, to the supporters – have made this experience the best it could have been. I have gained friends for life and people that have become as close as family. It has been an absolute pleasure and a life-changing opportunity.” – LPO Fellow Conductor, 2023/24