

haffnerorchestra

Information for Applicants for Position of Musical Director/Principal Conductor

The Haffner Orchestra is Lancaster's regular orchestra for professionals or well-qualified amateur musicians. The orchestra was formed in 1976 and since then has seen its reputation and audience attendance increase substantially. There are around 50 enthusiastic and committed members. We are a registered charity, number 509571. We are looking to appoint a Musical Director from autumn 2020 but are prepared to wait for the right candidate. Candidates preferring a role as principal conductor will also be considered.

Concerts

The orchestra normally gives three concerts each season in Lancaster, in November, February and June. We perform in the Great Hall at Lancaster University or at the Ashton Hall in the Town Hall. We regularly attract audiences of 400 to 550 people.

In the past three years we have given biennial concerts for children. These have been very well received with over 400 children attending from local primary schools.

Occasionally the orchestra is invited to give additional concerts at other venues. For example, in 2016 we performed at the Coronation Hall in Ulverston and in March 2015 we played in a joint concert for Comic Relief, organised by Live at LICA, with the University Music Society and local choirs.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held in Lancaster, from 7.30pm to 9.45pm, on the five Mondays preceding each concert and the Friday before the concert. There is also a rehearsal on the day of the concert from 2pm to 5pm. We encourage soloists to attend the Friday evening rehearsal. We usually have sectionals once a term taken by professional coaches. Rehearsals are well attended.

Repertoire

We aim to play a wide repertoire from the baroque period to the 21st century and we have occasionally commissioned works. Programmes from concerts in the last ten years are available to view on the website.

Members

We hold auditions for new members and encourage good students from the University of Lancaster and local schools to join. We have some non-playing members who are members of the committee.

Musical Directors

The orchestra has had seven musical directors in its history. Our current musical director, Jonathan Lo has been with the orchestra for three years but is unable to continue because of his increasing commitment and responsibility with the Royal Ballet and work as Musical Director of Northern Ballet.

Soloists and Guest Conductors

The orchestra has a good reputation for engaging accomplished and up-and-coming professional soloists. We occasionally invite guest conductors. Sir Charles Groves, the orchestra's president from its early years, conducted the tenth anniversary concert. Since then, well-known artists such as

Bradley Creswick, Janet Hilton, Jack Liebeck, Martin Roscoe, Craig Ogden, Yonty Solomon, Kathryn Stott, and Raphael and Elizabeth Wallfisch have performed with the orchestra. Raphael Wallfisch made such an impression when he played the Shostakovich cello concerto in 1991 that, on the death of Sir Charles Groves, the orchestra invited him to become its President.

Funding

Members pay an annual subscription (students are exempt). In addition to income from ticket sales and advertising, we receive financial support from our patrons and sponsorship from local businesses. We occasionally organise additional events including fund raising events.

Management

The orchestra is run by a committee whose members are elected annually from the orchestra and from interested supporters. The Musical Director is invited to attend committee meetings (approximately six a year). The constitution, our privacy policy, financial policy, equality and diversity policy, safeguarding policy and conflict of interest policy are available on the website.

Outreach

We have organised events in the community such as masterclasses and workshops. For example, in 2016 we held a 'Come and Play' event which was open to non-members. In 2017 the orchestra played in the local shopping arcade and Jonathan Lo gave a conducting masterclass in March 2019. Small groups from the orchestra have played in venues in the area as diverse as Lancaster library, village halls, churches, museums, WI meetings and local cafes.

Social events

Orchestra members organise various social events. These have included weekends away, walks, a quiz and meals out.

Contract Terms and Fees

Contract terms and fees are subject to negotiation. The Musical Director is expected to be a self-employed contractor.

Interview and Audition Dates

Interviews will take place on Saturday 29th February 2020

Auditions for candidates who at interview are shortlisted will take place with the orchestra on Sunday 22nd March 2020.

Further information

This can be found by visiting our website: www.haffnerorchestra.org or by contacting the chairman: Alison Toy (tel. 01524 811474 or e-mail chairman@haffnerorchestra.org) who would be happy to discuss the position with you.