

Perth Symphony Orchestra

Perth Orchestral Society

Registered Scottish Charity No. 017207



Musical Director Prospectus

Introduction

Perth Symphony Orchestra recently celebrated its 70th anniversary as the principal symphony orchestra in Perthshire. The current Musical Director, our tenth, will be stepping down at the end of our 2024/25 season after more than 25 years, and the orchestra is looking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced professional to take over the role.

The Orchestra

History

Perth Symphony Orchestra started when Louis J Barnett, who was at the time a music teacher employed by Perth and Kinross Education Committee, called a public meeting in the Chapter House of St Ninian's Cathedral on Wednesday 7th November 1951 at which it was unanimously decided to form an organisation "The Perth Orchestral Society" with the establishment of an orchestra as its principal aim, to provide an outlet for the musical aspirations of local talented players, and also for competent amateurs, students and music teachers from further afield.

It is a non-auditioning community orchestra consisting of a friendly, lively and ambitious group of around sixty players of all ages, including a number of instrumental tutors who work for the local Instrumental Music Service. It is based in Perth (Scotland) and rehearses every Wednesday evening between September and March in North Inch Community Campus, where there is ample parking.

Where repertoire demands, on the advice of the Conductor and the Leader, PSO engages freelance professionals to fill gaps in personnel.

Concerts

The orchestra performs two concerts each year, usually in the much-lauded Perth Concert Hall. PSO performs a varied symphonic repertoire of classical, romantic and contemporary pieces; recent highlights have included Sibelius's Fifth Symphony, Liszt's Second Piano Concerto and Dvořák's Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70. Most years, PSO includes a concerto, employing professional soloists with a local link. Over the years, we have premièred works by composers with a local link,

the most recent being The Rinns of Islay, by Helen Mackinnon. We have regularly included other ensembles, e.g. Perth Youth Orchestra.

Leader

The orchestra has been led by Lorna McGovern for more than 25 years.

Governance

Perth Orchestral Society is constituted as a Charity (SC017207) and supported by a small, hard-working committee of Trustees registered with OSCR. It is a member of Making Music and runs a limited production company (Perth Orchestral Productions Ltd). There is a small membership of very supportive and appreciative Orchestra Friends.

Brief Financial Summary

- Players' subscriptions are currently £85/year and we actively pursue grant support.
- Recent improvements in financial control mean that our financial position is good.
- We run a separate production company, with three committee members as directors, providing significant additional income by way of Orchestra Tax Relief.
- Perth Orchestral Society is registered with OSCR, SC017207.

Our Ambitions

- Keep all sections of the orchestra filled with talented and committed players from all age groups.
- Programme an inclusive range of repertoire that will attract younger audiences as well as our loyal core of supporters.
- Create a fun and enjoyable atmosphere at rehearsals and concerts.
- Maintain positive links with youth groups and other local amateur ensembles, to bring on the next generation of players.

Can you help us achieve these ambitions?

We are looking for a Musical Director/Conductor who

- brings drive and dynamism, and the ability to motivate and develop orchestra members to achieve high performance standards;
- will develop programmes, in conjunction with the Programming Sub-Committee, for two concerts each year, usually on Saturday evenings, the programmes planned within the orchestra's budget;
- will lead Wednesday evening two-hour rehearsals, an additional three-hour Sunday afternoon rehearsal prior to each concert, and a three-hour afternoon rehearsal on the day of the concert, with good humour and respect for members;
- will arrange a suitable deputy when unable to fulfil rehearsal commitments;
- will work collaboratively with the Chair, Committee and Librarian and attend Committee meetings if required, by Zoom if necessary;
- has a wide musical experience and relevant qualifications and is able to demonstrate skill in conducting large orchestras, soloists and occasional choirs;
- can work with the Leader of the Orchestra and section leaders, taking sectional rehearsals as and when required;
- shows good organisational skills in planning and preparing the rehearsals and the approach to the music, to achieve a high performance standard.

What we can offer

- High standards of musicianship and enthusiasm from our friendly and appreciative players.
- A warm, bright, attractive rehearsal venue with ample parking.
- A loyal audience in Perth Concert Hall, which has a superb acoustic and ambience.
- Occasional social activities with members and friends.
- A small but experienced and dedicated committee, who organise the orchestra and concerts.
- A well-managed financial position.
- A competitive per-concert fee, based on Making Music guidelines.

Applications, interviews and auditions

Applications should be submitted by email to perthsymphonyorchestra@gmail.com

Please send your cv, including all relevant qualifications and experience and the names and contact details of two referees.

The closing date for submission of applications is **Monday 24 February 2025**.

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www.perthsymphonyorchestra.co.uk

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