

Briefing note re leading K3AO

Background

The Kingston 3rd Age Orchestra (K3AO) was founded in 2010 and has become an established chamber orchestra in South West London, consisting of amateur players who are free on Wednesday mornings. The orchestra has a number of retired, or semi-retired professional musicians, most of whom are playing their second or third instrument. The general standard of the amateurs is Grade 5 or above. Although most of the members are retired, the orchestra is in fact open, by invitation, to players of any age. The orchestra is a registered charity and has a turnover of roughly £25k per year, and tries to break-even.

In the last ten years we have had two conductors/ directors (David Ward and Rupert Bond), and three leaders (John Kitchen, Madeleine Easton, and Fiona McLean-Buechel). Fiona is moving to Scotland so we are looking for a new leader to replace her at some stage during the year that begins in January 2020.

Description of the role

1. A professional violinist with experience of leading and encouraging amateur musicians.
2. Able to lead sectional rehearsals (c 3 or 4 per term) with enthusiasm and insight, and to take the whole rehearsal in the absence, planned or unplanned, of the conductor, and have a knowledge/ appreciation of wind instruments in such circumstances.
3. Able to attend at least 80% of rehearsals, and 100% of concert dates, and the dress rehearsal the week beforehand.
4. Able to arrange deputies for planned absences.
5. Outside of rehearsal time, provide bowings for the upper strings in the first half of term, and suggest cello and double bass bowings in consultation with the cello section leader and conductor

Structure and Management

Under the terms of its constitution, the orchestra is managed by an elected management committee whose members are from within the orchestra on three year terms. The officers of the orchestra are an elected chair, secretary and treasurer who oversee the week to week running of the orchestra. The key working relationships for the leader are with the chair and the conductor.

Repertoire

Given the chamber ensemble resources, the repertoire is mainly pre 1850. However, more modern works are not excluded, and through our “Young Musician Scheme”,

funded by generous grants from the H R Taylor Charitable Trust, modern compositions and young soloists are supported. The Spring term music in 2020 is a new work by Rupert Bond; a concert overture, Mozart's piano concerto in Eb K482, and Beethoven's 1st Symphony.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are in central Kingston upon Thames at the United Reformed Church (KURC) on Wednesdays from 10.15 to 12.30 (with a 15/20 minute tea break), roughly following the terms of the academic year (Autumn, Spring and Summer), with 9 to 11 rehearsals per term.

Concerts

Two formal concerts are given each year, usually in the Surbiton/ Kingston area, on Sunday afternoons in March and December. A third, more informal concert, is held at the end of the summer term in June on a Wednesday morning as part of the last rehearsal of term at KURC.

Term Dates

The dates for the Spring 2020 term are: Wednesdays: 8, 15, 22, 29 January; 5, 12 February (19th Feb half term/ Abingworth weekend 21-23 Feb), 26 Feb; 4, 11, 18, 25 (dress rehearsal) March; Sunday 29th March Concert at All Saints, Kingston (1pm –run through, 3 – 5pm Concert).

Remuneration

Leaders Fees are reviewed annually and are currently £80 per rehearsal, plus £10 travel allowance if applicable (to acknowledge travel costs from beyond Kingston, Surbiton and New Malden). Fees are to be invoiced monthly to the K3AO treasurer, and payment is by bank transfer. The fee for Sunday concerts (i.e., run through and concert) is twice the rehearsal fee, plus one £10 travel allowance if normally applicable. The Wednesday summer concert is covered by one rehearsal fee.

Next steps

If you are interested in the leader's position, please contact the Chair of K3AO, Jonathan Law by email (jptbhlaw@btinternet.com), including a short note/cv that addresses the points covered by the description of the role, and indicating your availability for the term dates mentioned. Thank you.

J Law
Dec 2019