
Philharmonia

MMSF Instrumental Fellowships: Percussion and Timpani Fellowships

The Philharmonia Orchestra's Percussion and Timpani Programme is designed to support the development of talented orchestral instrumentalists at the beginning of their career. The programme has been designed not only to support their musical development, but also to provide them with an awareness of how an orchestra runs and their role within it.

The Philharmonia is dedicated to diversifying our audiences, programmes and workforce. We welcome and encourage applicants from backgrounds that are currently underrepresented in orchestras and actively invite applicants to declare their underrepresented characteristics on their application form.

Timeline for Percussion and Timpani Fellowships

For details of application opening and closing dates, please visit our webpage [here](#). For more information please email emergingartists@philharmonia.co.uk.

There is a maximum of two Fellowships available. The content of the annual programme will be tailored to meet the individual needs and development rates of the artists, but will include:

Grant

Each recipient receives a grant towards their studies and in acknowledgement of any travel costs associated with participating in this programme. This is awarded annually.

Mentorship

In addition to the Philharmonia's Director of Learning & Engagement, each recipient is paired with a Philharmonia player to offer them structured feedback, advice and guidance throughout their Fellowship, ensuring that they are welcomed to the Orchestra and receive a constructive and positive assessment of their performance and progress.

Masterclass and seminar programme

During the course of the one-year programme, recipients have access to a range of masterclasses and seminars on relevant topics related to working in the orchestral sector, including:

- Orchestral repertoire coaching and preparing extracts
- Orchestral etiquette advice
- Careers advice
- Mock auditions and feedback afterwards
- Coaching prior to auditions

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Work experience: concerts

The content of the one-year programme will be tailored to meet the individual needs and development rates of the artists. If the Mentors and Principals agree that a Fellow is ready to play with the Orchestra (after support and coaching on the repertoire), there is the opportunity for the Fellow to be offered a defined number of dates with the Orchestra for which they are paid at the tutti rate.

Work experience: education and outreach

As part of their Fellowship, the recipients are offered paid project work with the Learning & Engagement department, providing them with invaluable training within learning and participation settings – an increasingly important skill for the 21st century orchestral musician.

Performance opportunities

During their Fellowship, recipients can take advantage of chamber and solo performance opportunities. As well as appearances at Development and Philharmonia Friends events, there is an end of year Showcase Concert at the Royal Festival Hall. In addition, if Fellows wish they can apply for further recital performance platforms (solo or as small chamber groups) in pre- or post-concert slots at our major residencies, including De Montfort Hall in Leicester, Three Choirs Festival and the Bedford Corn Exchange, incorporating the experience of putting together a proposal and programming ideas, along with a marketing plan and social media approach.

Condition of award

Successful recipients are asked to contribute to and sign a bespoke learning agreement to outline their commitment to the Fellowship Programme. The musicians are expected to participate in an evaluation process, to include completion of a brief progress report form at six-monthly intervals in order that the Philharmonia can ensure the Fellow is receiving the best experience possible.

Guidelines

We want to invest in talented instrumentalists who are pursuing an orchestral career. In order to be eligible for the Philharmonia MMSF Fellowship Programme, you must be able to demonstrate in your application an interest in an orchestral career, and some experience of working in an orchestral setting.

We want to support artists who have the potential to build a sustainable professional career and you will be asked to describe how the Philharmonia MMSF Fellowship Programme would make a significant difference to you at this point in your career or studies.

You should consider the impact the Fellowship would make to both your creative development and long-term career aims. The Percussion and Timpani Fellowship is an annual scheme. Each round is likely to be highly competitive. The panel will review all submitted information and will be asked to consider:

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- Your artistic achievements to date and the impact you are currently making in your studies and work
- The impact a Percussion and Timpani Fellowships would have for you as a prospective orchestral musician

Age

Applicants must be over the age of 18 and in full or part-time education, or no more than 18 months out of full or part-time education at the point of applying. You will need to be able to demonstrate this clearly on your application form. As a guide, the programme has been developed with fourth year undergraduate and postgraduate students in mind. We will accept applications from young undergraduates, but all applicants must be over 18 years old.

Nationality

The Percussion and Timpani Fellowship is open to applicants of all nationalities. However, if you are from overseas, you will need to demonstrate that you are still in education and will be for the duration of the Fellowship with a valid visa (if applicable).

References

From 2020-21 onwards, you do **not** need to supply references at the point of application. If you are selected for a second-round audition, we will then ask for two references to support your application.

What we are unable to help with

Through this scheme we are unable to consider applications for:

- Formal courses of study, training or research (including postgraduate degrees)
- Lessons with your regular teacher
- Costs associated with participating in competitions or showcases
- One off performances, touring or recording costs
- Instrument or equipment purchase
- Any costs incurred prior to a grant being offered

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How do I apply?

For details of application opening and closing dates, please visit our webpage [here](#).

Application process

To apply, you will need to complete our online application form before the deadline on our website. If you encounter any problems with the application form or have any questions, please email emergingartists@philharmonia.co.uk.

Please note, the Philharmonia will **not accept** any alternative applications such as CVs or recordings.

Auditions

If you are selected for audition, you will be asked to pay a registration fee of £20.

First round auditions will be screened. Final round auditions will not be screened. If invited to audition, you will be sent all the relevant information about what to prepare, including audition piece and orchestral excerpts. Candidates may be asked to do some sight reading. An accompanist will be provided – please do not bring your own. We are unable to provide feedback for unsuccessful candidates following the first-round auditions.