

## **DARWIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – STRING PRINCIPAL POSITIONS 2023 – 2024**

**Principals:** 1st Violin, 2nd Violin, Viola or Cello  
**Status:** Casual (contracted)  
**Term:** 24 months

### **Principal Position Duties**

- Provide support, guidance and leadership to your section through high-level musical accomplishment, experience and reliability; take responsibility for the section's sound and overall performance.
- Foster a positive and encouraging environment in your section: ensure it is working harmoniously, and help to monitor player development.
- Liaise with Orchestra Manager (OM) to finalise seating of the section for each concert.
- Be committed to the majority of DSO rehearsals and performances during the year.
- Help OM to ensure that the section is fully represented for each rehearsal (including attendance, suggesting deps etc.).
- Assist OM to ensure the efficient running of rehearsals, section is seated and ready to tune at the start of rehearsal and after the break.
- Support Artistic Director/Chief Conductor (AD/CC) and Concertmaster (CM) by leading the section in bowing, and any other musical matters.
- Be available for bowing and development sessions (generally 1 extra call per performance).
- Work in consultation with the OM and Concertmaster in actively sourcing new players.
- Support section members by ensuring all performance markings and bowings are correct in the instrumental parts prior to the commencement of the first rehearsal, and ensure that all music on folders be kept up to date with markings and music.
- Adhere to Darwin Symphony Orchestra's Code of Conduct, and other policies as provided by Darwin Symphony Orchestra.

### **Principal Position Term and Remuneration**

String Principals are paid per three-hour call at the minimum rate set out for Principal Musicians in the [Live Performance Australia Award 2020](#).

String Principal Positions Auditions will be held every two years. Once a Principal has been appointed, they hold this position for two years and must re-audition at the end of this period.

### **Rehearsal and Performance Requirements**

DSO performs a variety of music, from significant works of the orchestral canon to film music, rock and pop arrangements, and new Australian works.

In a calendar year, DSO typically performs six concerts, with five weeks of rehearsals beforehand. The 2023 schedule will be released late November 2022.

Regular rehearsals are Monday 6:15pm – 9:15pm with an additional rehearsal on a Friday evening during concert week. Players are also required for other occasional weekend workshops. Concerts are typically on a Saturday evening.

## **Other Important Information**

In sections without a Principal, the Principal's responsibilities outlined above fall to the Artistic Director/Chief Conductor.

If a Principal is unavailable for a period of more than two weeks, together with the Artistic Director/Chief Conductor they will be responsible for selecting another player to fill the position for that concert.

## **Key Relationships**

- Orchestra Manager
- Artistic Director/Chief Conductor
- Concertmaster
- Volunteer orchestra members within your section

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **Essential**

- Outstanding musical ability in an orchestral setting;
- Highly developed leadership skills, encompassing interpersonal, communication, advocacy and negotiation skills;
- Strong track record of reliability, punctuality and accountability.

### **Desirable**

- Tertiary qualifications in music;
- Educational experience as an instrumental tutor; and
- Experience in a professional symphony or chamber orchestra.

## **THE SELECTION PROCESS & HOW TO APPLY**

All applicants are required submit an application and undertake an audition and interview.

### **Application**

Send an application to the Orchestra and Operations Manager [tania.watts@cdu.edu.au](mailto:tania.watts@cdu.edu.au) which includes the following:

- A short cover letter (no more than two pages) detailing your response to the selection criteria
- Your CV, including two references
- Your availability on Thursday 17 November

Applications close Monday 7 November

### **Audition Requirements**

Each audition will be of approximately 5 – 10 mins duration and consist of:

- Two short contrasting orchestral excerpts, available online from Monday 17 October at [dso.org.au/about/join-dso/](http://dso.org.au/about/join-dso/)
- One work (or part of) of your own choice (maximum five mins)

You should prepare all the above material for your audition. A short interview will follow your audition.

### **Audition Dates and Location**

Auditions will take place over two sessions:

- Thursday 17 November: 6:00pm – 9:00pm (Strings and Percussion)
- Saturday 19 November: 1:00pm – 4:00pm (Wind and Brass)

You will be notified of your scheduled audition time by Wednesday 9 November. Auditions will take place at:

- Purple 5, Casuarina Campus, Charles Darwin University Ellengowan Drive, Brinkin NT

### **Principal Appointments**

All applicants will be notified by Monday 28 November. Principals will take up their positions from the commencement of 2023 rehearsals.

### **Enquiries**

For enquiries, please contact Orchestra and Operations Manager Tania Watts on 0423 207 085 [tania.watts@cdu.edu.au](mailto:tania.watts@cdu.edu.au)