

DARWIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – PRINCIPAL POSITIONS (VOLUNTEER) 2023 – 2024

Principals: Double Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion/Timpani

Principal Position Requirements

Principals are expected to:

- Provide support, guidance and leadership to their 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 their 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
- Adhere to Darwin Symphony Orchestra's Code of Conduct, and other policies as provided by Darwin Symphony Orchestra

Principal Position Term

Auditions for Volunteer Principal Positions 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.

In some instances, a Principal Position may be shared if two equally suitable candidates apply and audition. This will be at the discretion of the audition panel.

Key Relationships

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

Desired Skills and Experience

- Musical ability in an orchestral setting
- Well-developed leadership skills; encompassing interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong track record of reliability, punctuality and accountability

THE SELECTION PROCESS & HOW TO APPLY

All applicants are required to undertake an audition and interview. Send an email advising of your interest in applying to tania.watts@cdu.edu.au and include your name, contact number, instrument, and availability on Saturday 19 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/
- 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