

HALLÉ

PRINCIPAL CELLO (SECTION LEADER)

(FULL-TIME PERMANENT)

Recruitment information pack



CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS APPLICATION

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1. BACKGROUND

the most articulate, consistently beautiful playing of any full-time orchestra in recent years.

THE SPECTATOR

Concerts like this renew one's faith in the ability of British orchestras not just to survive but to flourish, startle and exhilarate

THE TIMES

Innovation has been central to the Hallé since its foundation in 1858 by Sir Charles Hallé, a true pioneer. His fundamental belief that music should be for everyone remains central to the orchestra's vision today, yet the Hallé is much more than just a world-beating symphony orchestra. Its collective spirit can be felt in the variety of communities it embraces, the diversity of the ensembles it nurtures and the array of different concerts it offers.



Since 1858, Sir Charles Hallé's ground-breaking work has been continued by other musical legends: Hans Richter, Hamilton Harty, John Barbirolli and Sir Mark Elder. The 2023-2024 season is Sir Mark's final one as Music Director: he will be stepping aside after almost a quarter of a century at the helm. From the 2024-2025 season, Sir Mark takes the role of Conductor Emeritus and passes the baton to Kahchun Wong, who opens a new chapter for the Hallé as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor.

At the heart of the Hallé are its players, led by their dynamic Leader, Roberto Ruisi. Hailing from over 14 different countries, they are extraordinary, multi-skilled individuals in their own right - soloists, chamber musicians, educators and more - who, when united in concert, create the unique and world-famous Hallé sound.

Originally based in Manchester's Free Trade Hall, the Hallé has been resident at the specially built Bridgewater Hall, one of the world's great concert venues, since it was opened in 1996.



Hallé St Peter's opened in the resurgent area of Ancoats in 2013 and now includes the triple RIBA Award-winning Oglesby Centre. It provides a home for the Hallé to rehearse, record and perform, as well as a base for Hallé Connect, the banner that unites all the Hallé's varied schools and community work.

The Hallé performs to over 100,000 people annually at The Bridgewater Hall and this season its expanded offering includes hour-long immersive Rush Hour concerts, specially devised family performances and a series of unique collaborations with celebrated artists from other genres in 'The Hallé Presents ...'. Hallé St Peter's hosts a series of relaxed concerts and an incredibly popular lunchtime Chamber Series that frequently attracts capacity audiences.

One of the biggest initiatives of its kind in the world, Hallé Connect's education and outreach projects inspire and engage more than 76,000 people a year, bringing music in its broadest sense to many who have never before visited

a concert hall. The ever-expanding family of ensembles welcomes over 700 people, aged eight and upwards, through its doors each week.

In addition, the Hallé holds residencies in major cities across the North West, performs regularly at prestigious international festivals, such as Edinburgh and the BBC Proms, and tours overseas, reaching another 70,000 listeners, both here and abroad. Encouraged by an enhanced social media presence, the Hallé has seen a dramatic increase in younger audiences, as well as the launch of its own record label, filmed concerts released online, expanded repertoire with brand-new commissions and numerous awards, including a 2022 South Bank Sky Arts Award and a 2024 RPS Award for Manchester Classical.



1.1 THE ORCHESTRA

The players in the Hallé are among the finest in the world and have come from 14 countries all over the world to work in Manchester. Many teach at the Royal Northern College of Music and Chetham's School of Music and other UK wide specialist Conservatoires and schools, playing and teaching in the wider community. All are involved in the Hallé's concerts in the UK and overseas and are central to our huge community and outreach programme.

The Orchestra has 80 permanent posts (with some players employed on part time contracts) and gives around 140 concerts and events each year

Further information about the Orchestra and its performances is available at www.halle.co.uk



1.2 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, DIVERSITY INCLUSION AND BELONGING

The Hallé Concerts Society is embedded in its city and aims to reflect the great diversity of Greater Manchester in all areas of its work: musicians, staff, Board participants and audiences.

Our ambition is to ensure that all employees and job applicants are given equal opportunity and that our organisation is representative of all sections of society. Each employee will be respected and valued and able to give their best as a result. We're committed to providing equality and fairness to all in our employment and not provide less favourable facilities or treatment on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, national origin, religion or belief, or sex and sexual orientation. We are opposed to all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. All employees, no matter whether they are part-time, full-time, or temporary, will be treated fairly and with respect.

But simply having a diverse workforce is not enough. We want to build an inclusive environment, where everyone can develop to their full potential. We celebrate our differences, and recognise the importance of teams reflecting the activities and communities they serve.

2. THE ROLE

2.1 JOB OVERVIEW

After 18 years under the stewardship of Nicholas Trygstad, the Hallé cello section is looking to appoint a new Section Leader. The role involves leading the section for performances ranging from Mahler symphonies to *Top Gun: Maverick* and everything in between. It also includes opportunities to perform concerts in the Chamber Series at Hallé St Peter's and the possibility of concerto appearances with the orchestra. The section is warm and welcoming, and gives concerts as the Hallé Cello Octet, with repertoire from Purcell to Villa-Lobos and Sollima.

Off stage, there are many opportunities to contribute to the educational reach of the Hallé. The Hallé Youth Orchestra regularly receive coaching from the Section Leaders, who also teach and mentor the players enrolled on the Advanced Orchestral Studies Programme, run jointly by the Hallé and the RNCM. Grassroots possibilities span the whole age range, from the Adopt A Player initiative in primary schools to working with dementia sufferers in care homes.



2.2 THE CONTRACT

The Orchestra's contract guarantees a maximum of 430 sessions or calls in a year, where notification of work is published in quarterly itineraries. A session will be not more than 3 hours and often less (e.g. a concert which are normally 2 hours). This is also the maximum that you will be required to undertake without your agreement and additional pay. There are checks and balances in place to prevent overwork such as a maximum number of sessions in a day (2), a week (12) and a free day structure which equates to 2 days a week free plus statutory holidays etc. Up to 10% of sessions may be taken off, without pay, by agreement with the Orchestra Manager. The Orchestra have 35 days annual leave, where 28 of those days are usually scheduled as one period in the summer.

The permanent string strength of the orchestra is currently 14.12.10.8.6 and these numbers are increased for relevant concerts using freelance players.

2.3 SALARY AND BENEFITS

The Section Leader Cello salary is c. £50K per annum. Other benefits include an excellent, contributory pension scheme and a health insurance scheme. The Hallé also insures members of the Orchestra's instruments.

3. THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS

All applications will be carefully considered in an anonymised process which aims to widen access to auditions. We will be unable to offer auditions to all players who apply but players' CVs, references, and past professional experience will be taken into account.

The Halle Concerts Society is committed to diversity in its workforce and welcomes applications from people from diverse backgrounds.

3.1 AUDITIONS

Auditions requirements are available to download at halle.co.uk, but will be the exposition of the first movement of the concertos by either Haydn, Dvořák or Schumann, and a selection of orchestral excerpts.

Auditions will be held in the first half of October, in Manchester.



3.2 TRIALS

Following a successful audition, applicants will be invited to play in the Orchestra on a trial basis for rehearsals and concerts. This may be for more than one period of work. The successful candidate will, at some stage, have played under the direction of the Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor (Kahchun Wong). Some players may also be recruited for trial periods with the Orchestra without audition; however, in such circumstances, they will still be required to give an audition at some point in the selection process (probably during or following one of the trial periods).

3.4 HOW TO APPLY

Download the application form and Equal Opportunities form from our website, www.halle.co.uk

Complete and submit them via email: chris.lewis@halle.co.uk by 9am on Monday 12 August 2024.

The audition requirements are available to download at halle.co.uk

4. WHO TO CONTACT?

For information on the application process and auditions etc.
Chris Lewis (Orchestra Manager)
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