



New Zealand Assistant Conductor in Residence

Job Description

TITLE:	New Zealand Assistant Conductor in Residence
DEPARTMENT:	Artistic
LOCATION:	Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Wellington as required
IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR:	Director of Artistic Planning
TERM:	Across the 2027 season, according to agreed work plan

OVERVIEW:

The Auckland Philharmonia is part of a vibrant orchestra network in Aotearoa, building on a foundation of musical excellence to support, promote and nurture the next generation of orchestral musicians, soloists and conductors.

In partnership with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra (CSO), Dunedin Symphony Orchestra (DSO) and Orchestra Wellington (OW), the Auckland Philharmonia is delighted to announce the continuation of the **New Zealand Assistant Conductor in Residence** position.

By jointly providing opportunities for a conductor in the early stages of their career through the creation of a cross-sector Assistant Conductor position, we aim to identify and nurture the next generation of outstanding talent in Australasia.

SCOPE:

This is an assistant and training position, over agreed work periods during the 2027 season. The objective is for the postholder to gain first-hand experience working with international conductors in conjunction with New Zealand's professional symphony orchestras. This development opportunity will be comprised of conducting activity as well as periods of observing and assisting international calibre conductors in rehearsal and performance.

The successful candidate may reside anywhere in New Zealand or Australia, but must be available during agreed upon periods in accordance with the orchestras' schedules.

The Assistant Conductor will already have had some professional conducting experience, be able to communicate on a professional level with musicians, conductors, and soloists, and is able and interested to relate to audiences of all age groups.

The successful candidate will work closely with the Auckland Phil Music Director and other guest artists throughout the 2027 season and work closely with the artistic leadership teams of the participating orchestras to gain insight into the workings of a professional orchestra. They will also take on conducting duties for the Auckland Phil, CSO, DSO and OW, where available and possible, to further their conducting experience and career.

PURPOSE OF POSITION

- To develop the skills required to conduct a professional symphony orchestra in a diverse range of repertoire including core orchestral repertoire, popular music programmes, education and outreach concerts, and a variety of other musical programmes.
- To work closely with the Auckland Phil Music Director and other guest artists as appropriate to further develop techniques and insight into working as a professional conductor.
- To work closely with the Auckland Phil artistic team to develop skills and insight into programming and the workings of a professional orchestra.
- To develop the management and communication skills necessary to work with a broad range of orchestral musicians, guest artists, arrangers, and composers.
- To contribute to the musical life of Aotearoa.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- In consultation with the artistic management teams of the participating orchestras, the Assistant Conductor will conduct a series of concerts and events across the 2027 seasons of the Auckland Phil, CSO, DSO and OW.
- Work in collaboration with Music Directors and guest conductors of the participating orchestras during rehearsals and performances across a variety of different programmes.
- Facilitate development opportunities for local emerging talent by leading coaching sessions and masterclasses.
- Meet on a regular basis with the Auckland Phil Music Director and Auckland Phil Director of Artistic Planning to discuss the residency and set goals with measurable outcomes. Such goals will be set in agreement with the participating orchestras.
- Researching and delivering pre-concert talks ahead of Auckland Phil mainstage concerts when required.
- Be available for any ancillary activities as appropriate (this may include, but is not limited to, activities such as score reading, mentoring, attending concerts, education and outreach activities, and public speaking engagements).
- Other relevant conducting duties as required by Auckland Phil Director of Artistic Planning in consultation with the other participating orchestras.

KEY SKILLS AND EXPERTISE:

- Tertiary qualifications and training in music is mandatory
- Proven ability as an orchestral conductor
- Experience of conducting professional orchestras
- A breadth of knowledge of orchestral repertoire, artists and composers
- A passion for new compositions and contemporary orchestral music
- Ability to work with a diverse range of performers and repertoire
- Initiative and an ability to think creatively
- Positive outgoing approach

- Willingness to travel between Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Wellington for the duration of the position
- Enthusiasm for education, music and young people
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Piano/keyboard skills an advantage

WORK HOURS AND REMUNERATION:

There is no set weekly work pattern for this position. Work will be set at mutually agreed periods (29 – 35 weeks total) throughout 2027. The postholder is considered an independent contractor and a weekly invoice (plus GST) will be paid to the postholder for the working weeks of the residency. Some weekend and evening work will be required.

The successful candidate will receive:

- If required, one return flight from the candidate's current city of residence to Auckland.
- Accommodation in Auckland for the working weeks of the residency (or an accommodation supplement, to be determined mutually).
- Domestic travel from Auckland to Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington as required for engagements with CSO, DSO and OW during working weeks of the residency.
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- A weekly stipend of \$900 NZD +GST for each working week of the residency.
- An additional \$600 NZD +GST for each conducting week.

In between periods of engagement, any travel to and from Auckland will be the responsibility of the candidate.

All applicants must submit the following:

- Current CV or resume, including details of two professional referees (PDF or WORD only)
- Cover letter (PDF or WORD only)
- A repertoire list of works studied and performed (PDF or WORD only)
- Two video recordings of themselves conducting two contrasting works with an orchestra or an instrumental ensemble. If practical, this should be a recording which has been produced within the last 18 months. Recording URL links should be pasted into the email application.

Closing date for applications is **Friday 9 Oct 2026**. Please send your application to Artistic Administrator, Esther Stephens, at esthers@aucklandphil.nz.

Successful candidates for audition will be notified by **Friday 30 Oct 2026**.

Auditions will be in Auckland on **Friday 20 November 2026** with the Auckland Philharmonia and representatives of other New Zealand orchestras at Life Church Mount Eden.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Esther Stephens at esthers@aucklandphil.nz.

This position is open to New Zealand and Australian citizens or permanent residents only. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a New Zealand Police vetting check. Incomplete applications will not be considered.