

New Zealand Assistant Conductor-in-Residence

Job Description



TITLE:	New Zealand Assistant Conductor-in-Residence
DEPARTMENT:	Artistic
LOCATION:	Based in Auckland, with travel to Christchurch and Dunedin as required
IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR:	Director of Artistic Planning
TERM:	Across the 2025 season, according to agreed work plan

OVERVIEW:

The Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra 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 association with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Dunedin Symphony Orchestra (DSO), 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 by the creation of a cross-sector Assistant Conductor position, we aim to identify and nurture the next generation of outstanding talent.

SCOPE:

This is an assistant and training position, the period of the residency being one year. 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 position is primarily based in Auckland with the Auckland Philharmonia, with travel across New Zealand to work with the participating orchestras required. Such travel costs will be covered as part of the conditions of employment.

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 Philharmonia Music Director and other guest artists throughout the 2025 season, work closely with the artistic leadership teams of the participating orchestras to gain insight into the workings of a professional orchestra, and benefit from masterclasses. They will also take on conducting duties for the Auckland

Philharmonia, CSO and DSO, where available and possible, to further their conducting 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 Philharmonia 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 Philharmonia 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 2025 seasons of the Auckland Philharmonia, CSO and DSO.
- Work in collaboration with Music Directors and guest conductors of the participating orchestras during rehearsals and performances across a variety of different programmes
- Participate in development opportunities including coaching sessions and masterclasses
- Meet on a regular basis with the Auckland Philharmonia Music Director and Auckland Philharmonia Artistic team 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 Philharmonia mainstage concerts.
- 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 Philharmonia 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 and Dunedin for the duration of the position

- Enthusiasm for education, music and young people
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Keyboard skills an advantage

WORK HOURS:

There is no set weekly work pattern for this position. Work will be set at mutually agreed periods throughout 2025. A weekly salary will be paid for the duration of the residency.

Some weekend and evening work will be required.

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 7 October 2024. Please send your application to Artistic Administrator, Esther Stephens, at esthers@aucklandphil.nz.

Successful candidates for audition will be notified by COB 25 October 2024.

Auditions will be in Auckland on Monday 18th November 2024 with the Auckland Philharmonia and representatives of other New Zealand orchestras at Auckland Town Hall.

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.