

UCPO Conductor & Soloist Auditions 2018

The University of Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra (UCPO) is in search of concerto soloists and conductors to work with us in the next academic year. We tackle diverse and challenging repertoire and hold at least one concert each University term. The orchestra comprises amateur players based in and around Cambridge and rehearses weekly throughout the University term on Wednesday evenings (St Giles' Church, Cambridge).

Auditions for both soloists (one audition only) and conductors (first round) will take place in Trinity College on Saturday 26th May. Auditions will be assessed by an interview panel drawn from the orchestra's committee, with final appointments being approved by the committee as a whole. We welcome applications from both students and non-students alike. We regret we are unable to cover travel expenses for soloists or conductors working or auditioning with us.

All applicants should send a CV listing their musical experience to Becca Frake at raf48@cam.ac.uk by Friday 18th May. Further details relevant to conductors and soloists are below, but please feel free to get in touch with any remaining questions.

Conductors

Conductors will be appointed on the basis of a two round audition and interview process. In the first round (Saturday 26th May) we will ask you to conduct one or two pianists playing a piano reduction of a set orchestral work. You will also meet with the interview panel. The strongest candidates from the first round will then be invited to a further audition in front of the orchestra, which is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 6th June (evening). Further details of both auditions (i.e. extracts to prepare) will be available closer to the time. Please note that potential conductors must be willing to fulfil the following criteria: 1. attendance at the majority of relevant rehearsals, 2. active involvement in the running and organisation of the orchestra, and 3. thorough preparation of scores ahead of rehearsals with the orchestra (working in conjunction with concerto soloists where relevant).

Soloists

Both instrumental and vocal soloists are welcome to apply to play with UCPO in the 2017-18 academic year. The UCPO Committee may also consider requests for 2- or 3- instrument concertos, or 'joint' applications by two individuals who might wish to perform two shorter, individual concerti in the same concert. Applicants should prepare a piece or an extract lasting no longer than 10 minutes. There will be a piano available and you may bring an accompanist if you wish, but this is not a requirement. The piece performed for the audition does not need to be one offered for the eventual concerto, but we do request an indication of which concerto(i) you would like to play with us. We expect all candidates to attend an audition, but may be able to offer other arrangements in exceptional circumstances.