



LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Guide for Applicants

London Symphony Orchestra

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in working for the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO).

This booklet will give you more information about the London Symphony Orchestra, the application process and where to find further support. Please see the job advert for specifics about the role you wish to apply for.



ABOUT THE LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

At the London Symphony Orchestra, we believe that extraordinary music is for everyone, everywhere. It's a belief rooted in creativity, collaboration and determination – values that have shaped the LSO since 1904, when a group of musicians set out to create and run an orchestra of their own.

Since then, generations of remarkable talents have built our world-renowned reputation for excellence, innovation and sharing the joy of music. We perform a wide-ranging repertoire in front of nearly 200,000 people every year. We commission new composers and living artists to push new boundaries. And we connect with millions more online through our creative collaborations, and education and community programmes.

In London, we've been the Resident Orchestra at the Barbican since its opening, performing around 70 concerts each year. Here, we feature our internationally recognised family of artists: Chief Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano, Conductor Emeritus Sir Simon Rattle, Principal Guest Conductor Gianandrea Noseda, and Associate Artists Barbara Hannigan and André J Thomas.



Further afield, we have major residencies in Paris, Tokyo and at the Aix-en-Provence Festival, and our in-demand tours regularly take us across the UK, Europe, Asia and North America.

LSO Discovery, our education and community programme, is about changing lives through music. Each year, we connect with more than 60,000 people through workshops, events and performances – opening doors for performers and communities from every background.

The programme began nearly 40 years ago as an idea from LSO musicians, who remain at its heart today. Alongside performing, they lead workshops, mentor emerging instrumentalists, composers and conductors, and shape the programme, sharing their expertise directly with the people they work with. Much of this happens at **LSO St Luke's**, the LSO's venue and LSO Discovery's home on London's Old Street – an open, welcoming space where anyone can experience live music and get involved.





Our record company, **LSO Live**, is one of the largest independent classical labels. With over 200 recordings – including Grammy-winning, and critically acclaimed albums – it combines a musician-led approach with digital innovation. The label captures the energy of live LSO concerts, reaching millions of people around the world every month through streaming, radio and on-demand services. And in 2026, LSO Live was named Label of the Year at the International Classical Music Awards – recognition for producing music true to live performance and the LSO’s artistic spirit.

For over a century, we’ve been the orchestral power behind moments that define global culture. We’ve recorded music for iconic films, video games, theme parks – and albums in almost every genre. Anyone who’s watched *Star Wars*, listened to Rosalía’s album *Lux*, or visited Disney or Universal Studios resorts has heard the LSO. You’ll see us performing in *Maestro*, the Oscar-nominated Leonard Bernstein biopic. And hear us join forces with RAYE on the album *This Music May Contain Hope* – or with Floating Points and jazz legend Pharoah Sanders on the album *Promises*. Our live performances have made international headlines, featuring artists from Cypress Hill to Frankie Valli, Wynton Marsalis to Yuja Wang.

Find out more at lso.co.uk

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

At the London Symphony Orchestra, we are committed to sharing world-leading music-making with everyone, and to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in everything that we do.

By embodying and supporting these values, our work becomes stronger through innovation, new ideas and different perspectives, and the widest range of people are able to share in, benefit from, and contribute to it. We believe in creating an inclusive organisational culture, which values and celebrates difference, and we recognise the role and responsibility that we have in the sector to champion diversity, equity and inclusion, and to set an example in this area.

As an **Equal Opportunities Employer**, the LSO is committed to the equal treatment of all current and prospective employees and does not condone discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, gender identity, or marriage and civil partnership.

We aspire to have a diverse and inclusive workplace and strongly encourage suitably qualified applicants from a wide range of backgrounds to apply and join the LSO.

As a **Disability Confident Employer**, the LSO is committed to making the recruitment process as accessible as possible. If you require any reasonable adjustments during the process, please contact people@lso.co.uk.

For more information on DEI at the LSO, please see lso.co.uk/policies



GOVERNANCE AND STAFF TEAM

The London Symphony Orchestra is a self-governing orchestra and a registered charity. Its players are Members and shareholders of London Symphony Orchestra Ltd, giving them a direct voice in the organisation's artistic and strategic direction. The LSO is governed by a Board of Directors comprising elected player representatives, external non-playing directors and the Managing Director. The Board delegates responsibility for orchestral matters to the Orchestra Committee and financial oversight to the Finance Committee, while the day-to-day operation of the organisation is led by the Managing Director and staff team. The LSO's wider activities include LSO St Luke's, LSO Discovery and its record label, LSO Live, which operate through wholly owned subsidiary companies with their own boards.

Find out more

lso.co.uk/about-us





HOW TO APPLY

On our website there is a link to the job advert and our short application form. You will be asked to submit a CV. Please do so before the closing date which can be found on the job advert.

On your CV, please include:

- Employment history and experience
- Relevant skills, education, training and achievements

You will also be asked to demonstrate and outline how your skills and experience meet the requirements for this role.

Please do not include details of your referees at this stage – you will be asked for these if a job offer is made. Referees must include your current or most recent employer.

You've Submitted Your Application

After submitting the online form, you will receive an acknowledgement email. Additionally, you will be asked to complete an anonymous equal opportunities form which requests your Diversity, Equity and Inclusion data. Though this is not compulsory, we encourage you to fill it out as this helps the LSO continue to improve on its recruitment process.

When You Will Hear Back

Shortlisting applicants usually occurs within two weeks of the application closing deadline. Though we aspire to contact unsuccessful applicants, on some occasions with a higher volume of applicants, this may not be possible. If you have not heard from us within two weeks of the closing date, then you have not been shortlisted.

AI in Job Applications

The LSO recognises that AI tools can help candidates prepare their applications. AI should be used to support your own knowledge, not replace it. You remain responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of everything you submit.

Any AI-assisted content should be carefully reviewed and edited so that your application remains a genuine representation of you.





FAQs

Do you accept speculative applications?

We are unable to accept speculative applications. All vacancies are listed on the LSO's website, which is updated regularly.

How long will my application be kept for?

Applications are kept for a maximum of 12 months. If you would prefer us to not keep your information for this period of time, please email us at people@lso.co.uk and your information will be deleted sooner.

Do you offer work experience?

We are currently unable to offer work experience and placements.

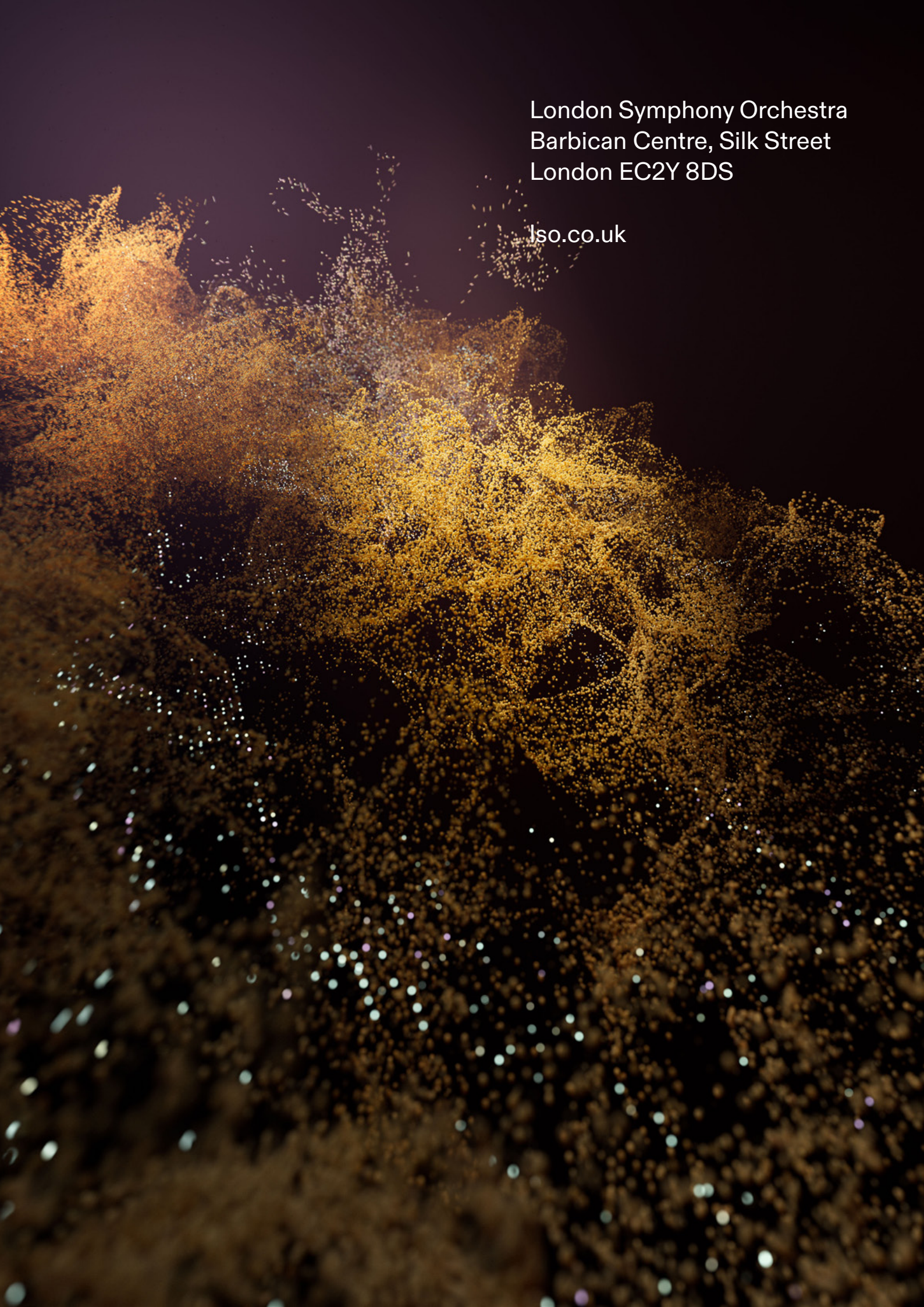
Where can I find out more about careers in music?

Below are excellent websites that can help give you a better understanding of different roles available in music:

- [The Association of British Orchestra – Careers](#)
- [iCould – Careers in Music](#)
- [Musical Chairs – Classical Music Jobs, Courses, Competitions & Instrument Sales](#)

More Information

For more information about the London Symphony Orchestra or recruitment at the LSO, please visit our website lso.co.uk or email people@lso.co.uk or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

The background of the entire page is an abstract composition. It features a dense, swirling cloud of fine golden particles that create a sense of movement and depth. Interspersed among these particles are numerous out-of-focus light points, or bokeh, in shades of white, light blue, and pale purple. The overall effect is ethereal and dynamic, resembling a microscopic view of a nebula or a high-speed photograph of a particle collision.

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lso.co.uk