



## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES:

### Principal Oboe

*\* All permanent performing members are required to have valid and up-to-date UK work permits for work with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra \**

#### **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) is one of Scotland's five National Performing Companies and has been a galvanizing force in Scotland's music scene since its inception in 1974. The SCO believes that access to world-class music is not a luxury but something that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in, helping individuals and communities everywhere to thrive.

Funded by the Scottish Government, City of Edinburgh Council and a community of philanthropic supporters, the SCO has an international reputation for exceptional, idiomatic performances: from mainstream classical music to newly commissioned works, each year its wide-ranging programme of work is presented across the length and breadth of Scotland, overseas and increasingly online.

Equally at home on and off the concert stage, each one of the SCO's highly talented and creative musicians and staff is passionate about transforming and enhancing lives through the power of music. The SCO's Creative Learning programme engages people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse range of projects, concerts, participatory workshops, and resources. The SCO's current five-year Residency in Edinburgh's Craigmillar builds on the area's extraordinary history of Community Arts, connecting the local community with a national cultural resource.

An exciting new chapter for the SCO began in September 2019 with the arrival of dynamic young conductor Maxim Emelyanychev as the Orchestra's Principal Conductor. His tenure has recently been extended until 2028. He and the Orchestra have made several outstanding recordings, the first being Schubert Symphony No 9, 'the Great', released in 2019 to coincide with his first concerts as Principal Conductor.

The SCO also has long-standing associations with many eminent guest conductors and directors including Principal Guest Conductor Andrew Manze, Pekka Kuusisto, Nicola Benedetti, Lorenza Borrani, François Leleux, Isabelle van Keulen, Anthony Marwood, Richard Egarr, Mark Wigglesworth, John Storgårds and Conductor Emeritus Joseph Swensen.

The Orchestra is committed to the creation and performance of new music; it enjoys close relationships with numerous composers and has commissioned around 200 new works, including pieces by Anna Clyne (Associate Composer 2019-2022), Sir James MacMillan, Karine Polwart, Pippa Murphy, Martin Suckling, Errollyn Wallen, Nico Muhly, Thomas Adès and the late Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Its current Associate Composer is Jay Capperault.

## **Orchestra Structure**

The SCO is the only one of Scotland's five National Performing Companies to be based in the capital city, Edinburgh. The Orchestra is freelance and consists of 38 member players. There are 20 full-time and 4 part-time members of staff in the administration.

The Orchestra has several named artistic positions:

**Maxim Emelyanychev** Principal Conductor

**Andrew Manze** Principal Guest Conductor

**Joseph Swensen** Conductor Emeritus

**Gregory Batsleer** Chorus Director

**Jay Capperault** Associate Composer

## **The Orchestra's Work**

The SCO has an international reputation for outstanding, idiomatic performances of repertoire ranging from the baroque (including gut strings projects) through to newly commissioned scores, and from mainstream classical music to cross-artform collaborations.

## **The Winter Season**

From late September to mid-May, the SCO's Winter Season provides around 23 weeks of own-promoted concerts throughout Scotland, with between two and four concerts each week – around 60 concerts in total. These take place weekly in Edinburgh and Glasgow with additional concerts in Aberdeen, Inverness, Dumfries, Ayr, St Andrews, and Perth. Touring, recording, Family Festival, New Year concerts and outside engagements may also fall within this period.

## **Summer and Non-Season Work**

From mid-May to the end of September, work is less predictable than during the main Season, but there is a core of about 10 weeks' work. During the summer months, the SCO undertakes five to six weeks of Scottish regional touring to small towns and villages, including remote areas in the Highlands and Islands; the whole Orchestra is also involved in *Immerse*, the SCO's flagship education project for secondary school students.

## **Festivals and Overseas Touring**

The SCO is one of Scotland's foremost cultural ambassadors, in demand throughout the world. Touring activities are supported by the Scottish Government. In 2022 the Orchestra toured to Europe on two occasions, and to the USA (rescheduled from 2020). Tours to the Canary Islands Festival, Paris, Hamburg and Europe took place in 2023 and 2024. Further tours to Europe are scheduled for May and September 2025. In the UK, the Orchestra appears regularly at East Neuk Festival, the Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Promenade Concerts.

## **Recording and Digital projects**

The SCO has a longstanding partnership with Linn Records, and together they currently make one CD per year; the SCO is also occasionally engaged to record for other labels. Recordings on the SCO/Linn label include award-winning Mozart Symphonies with Sir Charles Mackerras; Serenades and Concertos by Weber and Mozart with Alexander Janiczek; Sibelius, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Prokofiev and Dvořák with Joseph Swensen; Berlioz, Schumann, Brahms and Haydn with Robin Ticciati.

Following on from the Orchestra's critically-acclaimed 2019 recording with Maxim Emelyanychev (Schubert Symphony No 9), an album of Mendelssohn Symphonies Nos 3 and 5 was released in November 2023. Their recording of Schubert Symphonies 5 & 8 was released in November 2024.

The Orchestra's Digital Season, in association with *The Scotsman*, enables audiences across the world to experience the thrill of the SCO in performance, highlighting composers featured in the main Season. Digital work is focused into one week each year.

## Schedule

Overall, there is a recurrent core of around eight months' work per year, supplemented by touring and recording. This equates to c. 80 concerts in Scotland each year plus festival appearances, overseas tours, chamber music and recording projects. There are many opportunities to supplement this work with involvement in projects run by the SCO's Creative Learning Department.

## Creative Learning

The SCO is widely regarded as a leading innovator in the field of orchestral community engagement and education. The SCO's Creative Learning schedule runs year-round across Scotland, inspiring and investing in communities, with an extensive programme that enables people of all ages and abilities to engage with the music and musicians of the Orchestra.

SCO musicians are warmly encouraged to take part in Creative Learning projects as part of their work with the orchestra. Some projects are designed to showcase performing skills, while others include specialist training and opportunities for continuing professional development. [www.sco.org.uk/join-in](http://www.sco.org.uk/join-in)

Current projects include a major five-year community residency **SCO in Craigmillar** in Edinburgh; our **ReConnect** programme for people living with dementia; **VIBE** creative music-making courses for young people; **Immerse** and **SCO Academies** for secondary school pupils; and **SCO Family Festival**.

## Playing Commitment

The terms and conditions of this position offer a flexible workload and schedule. The freelance contract SCO has with playing members provides a secure basic income while allowing flexibility for members to take on work outside the SCO. Many members enjoy the freedom this gives, working regularly in other orchestras and ensembles as well as non-classical groupings, and supplementing their incomes and musical experiences accordingly.

## Applications

We welcome applications from all nationalities; and if you don't currently have the right to work in the UK, we can discuss your longer-term options. All permanent performing members of the SCO are required to have up-to-date work permits for work with the SCO, and it is the responsibility of individual candidates to ensure that these are in place.

Regulations regarding immigration into the UK updated in April 2024. If you are not currently eligible to work in the UK, please go to the following link for up-to-date information on immigration routes into the UK <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>.

Please note that in order to secure a visa to work in the UK, there will be individual costs involved, and depending on your individual circumstances and the type of visa available to you there may also be restrictions on the work you do in the UK.

Further information is available from [www.sco.org.uk](http://www.sco.org.uk). Previous season brochures and all recent programmes are available at <https://issuu.com/scomusic>

Please apply via Musical Chairs [www.musicalchairs.info](http://www.musicalchairs.info) Please note that CVs will not be accepted; all information should be included in the application portfolio via Musical Chairs.

For any further information or queries, including access requirements, please email [auditions@sco.org.uk](mailto:auditions@sco.org.uk)