

Job description

Orchestras Official

Updated 21 January 2026

Job Title:	Orchestras Official
Department:	Orchestras
Responsible To:	National Organiser Orchestras
Salary Scale:	27

Purpose

- To assist in the delivery of the key objectives of the MU Orchestras department.
- To share the collective bargaining responsibility for the department with the National Organiser Orchestras and other Orchestras Official.
- To provide support on orchestral campaigns, crisis management and industrial disputes as required.
- To assist the teams in the Regions and Nations with orchestral casework when necessary.

Main duties and responsibilities

- To lead on collective bargaining negotiations assigned by the National Organiser Orchestras, incorporating MU strategy and policy as appropriate, and reporting to the MU's Executive Committee as required.
- To provide cover and deputise for the National Organiser Orchestras for annual leave if required and be able to lead or participate in sector meetings when required to do so.
- To work with the Orchestras team and MU Comms department to lead on campaigns and crisis management as required.
- To support and contribute to the strategic development of the Orchestras department.
- To carry out orchestral visits in collaboration with Regional and National teams, with a view to recruitment of members and of new activists.
- To provide support with orchestral case work and collective enquiries and to carry out casework as required.
- To provide regular updates to regional teams on departmental and sectoral issues e.g. from orchestral committees, on key negotiations or national issues affecting orchestras.
- To support, advise and train Orchestral Reps in conjunction with colleagues.
- To act as secretary to Orchestra section committees, as directed by National Organiser Orchestras.

Person Specification

Essential

- Experience of working or organising in the orchestral sector.
- Detailed knowledge of the working lives of orchestral musicians in the UK.
- Knowledge of trade union activism and organising.
- Knowledge of collective bargaining and the operation of collective agreements.
- Sound negotiation skills.
- Ability to develop and maintain constructive working relationships.
- Excellent interpersonal and communications skills.
- Excellent written skills and experience drafting communications for a range of audiences.
- Excellent presentation skills.
- Ability to undertake frequent travel across the UK, sometimes requiring overnight stays.
- Ability to prioritise workload, multitasking to effectively meet deadlines.
- A team player who has the strength to work independently and keep lines of communication open within the Orchestra Section team at all times.
- A commitment to the overall aims and objectives of the trade union movement.
- A commitment to delivering and improving the Union's services to members.
- The ability to confidently use standard Microsoft office software (such as word processing, spreadsheets, email, and online collaboration tools) and adapt to new systems as required.

Desirable

- Experience as a professional orchestral musician and activist, experienced in issues pertaining to MU organising in UK orchestras.
- Experience of trade union activism and organising.
- Experience of collective bargaining and the interpretation of collective agreements.
- Evidence of sound negotiation skills within collective bargaining.
- Ability to demonstrate excellent communication skills, including being able to address a whole orchestra.
- An understanding of employment law.
- An understanding of the role of a Union Official and Union Rep in the workplace.
- An understanding of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and the barriers to members working in the orchestral sector.
- Experience of working within a formal committee structure.