

Opera and Ballet Rates

April 2026-2027

Minimum Rates per Musician

Weekly Rates

For a week of up to eight 3-hour sessions, rehearsal or performance, on the six weekdays

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Tutti | £1,027.00 |
| Sub-principals | £1,054.00 |
| Principals | £1,086.00 |
| Section Principals | £1,120.50 |

Single Playing Session Rates

(For players engaged for up to 5 sessions per week) per session: £179.00

Ancillary payments applicable to both weekly and casual rates

Doubling

15% of the appropriate rate per additional instrument

Sundays or Statutory Holidays

Double time

Extra sessions

Pro rata

Stage Bands, Additional Payment

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Stage band only (unseen) | None |
| In pit and on stage (unseen) | £17.80 per call |
| On stage in costume (seen) | £33.70 per call |
| In pit and on stage (seen) | £66.70 per call |

Overtime

Overtime rate is time and half, i.e. 1/8 of concert fee for each thirty minutes or part thereof with a limit on overtime of one hour whether at rehearsal or concert. Where a proportion of a concert fee is being paid, e.g. for schools or educational concerts, the overtime rate for each thirty minutes or part thereof is 1/4 of this fee.

Conditions

1. There shall be an interval of no less than 15 minutes in each session.
2. No musician shall (except in the case of illness supported by a Medical Certificate) absent themselves from any rehearsal or performance without the prior consent of the engager.

Guidance Notes

The rates are always the minimum and take into account that holiday pay, sickness pay and maternity and paternity pay need to be factored into self-employed rates. Individual negotiations can be made based on these minimum rates.

Distance fees - in respect of time travelled

£12.60 per hour pro rata

[For travel time and mileage refer to google maps](#)

Fuel fees and travel expenses

56p per mile // [HMRC Travel rates](#)

[Standard class rail fare on Trainline](#)

Congestion / Toll Charges / Parking

All charges to be paid by the engager

Porterage

as per the MU Orchestral Concert Rates (Non ABO) 2025-26

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|---|
| Group A | £41.65 | Electric Guitar; Double Bass; Bass Guitar |
| Group B | £36.00 | Bass Saxophone, Tuba |
| Group C | £28.60 | Contra Bassoon; Baritone Saxophone; French Horn + 1 other brass instrument; Trombone + 1 other brass instrument or bag or mutes; Two Saxophones; Cello; Bass Clarinet |
| Group D | Individual negotiation | Kit Drums; Percussion instruments; Electronic Keyboards; Harp |

Doubling / Trebling / Quadrupling 15% of fee for each additional instrument

Breaks Minimum of 15 mins per 2 hours playing

Late fees Payable when time of return is midnight-2:00am £37.10

Overnight stay Payable when return would be after 2:00am £149.00

Subsistence Payable per day to cover meals and expenses £68.20