

**Orchestra da Camera &
Musicians' Union
Freelance Orchestral Agreement
2026**



1. Preamble

These Terms and Conditions have been agreed between the Orchestra da Camera (OdaC) and the Musicians' Union (MU), each recognising the other to be the appropriate body to negotiate on behalf of its members. They shall be regarded as having come into force on the 1st January 2026 and shall govern the freelance engagement of musicians.

2(a) Concert Rates

The following shall be the minimum rates to be paid for a concert of up to three hours in length with a rehearsal of up to three hours in length on the same day, each including an interval of not less than fifteen minutes. Exceptionally, in the case of the performance of a work normally played without an interval, and where no interval takes place, fifteen minutes shall be added to the length of the performance and, if this brings the performance time to more than three hours, overtime payments shall be made in accordance with Clause 4 of these Terms and Conditions.

There shall be no restrictions on the music that a musician may be asked to play at a rehearsal, providing that the music to be rehearsed is already scheduled for inclusion in a concert governed by the Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.

For the purposes of these Terms and Conditions, the finishing time of a concert is defined as the time at which the leader (or equivalent) finally leaves the concert platform after the final item.

Tutti	£130.00
Sub-Principals	£135.00
Principals	£141.00

2(b) Schools and Educational Concerts

The following shall be the minimum rates to be paid:

- (i) One concert with or without rehearsal and contained within a spreadover of three hours - 60% of the appropriate fee for a casual engagement.
- (ii) Two concerts with or without rehearsal and contained within a spread over of six hours - the appropriate fee for a casual engagement.

3(a) Extra Rehearsals

One-half of the appropriate concert fee, as defined in Clause 2(a) above, shall be paid for an extra rehearsal of up to three hours in length.

(b) Single Extra Rehearsals

When the only working period offered by a management on a day other than a concert day is a single extra rehearsal (with or without overtime), 60% of the appropriate concert fee shall be paid, together with any additional payments due under Clauses 5-8 of these Terms and Conditions.

4. Overtime

Overtime for any rehearsal or concert shall be paid at time-and-a-half for each half-hour or part thereof up to a maximum of one hour.

For the purposes of this Clause, time-and-a-half is defined as 12.5% of the appropriate basic fee listed in Clause 2(a) of these Terms and Conditions for each half-hour unit. In the case of a single schools or educational concert, or a single extra rehearsal, overtime is based on the enhanced fee defined in Clause 2 (b) (i) or Clause 3 (b), and is payable at the rate of 25% of the enhanced fee for each half-hour unit.

5. Doubling

Where a musician is required to play more than one instrument, or is specifically requested to bring to a rehearsal or concert more than one instrument, an additional payment of 10% of the musician's fee shall be made in respect of each additional instrument. A musician shall not be required to play more than three instruments in any session.

Doubling fees shall be calculated with reference to the musician's actual performing fee, plus overtime if applicable. Doubling fees are not payable on any other ancillary payment.

If a musician is required to double on an instrument normally classified as a principal instrument, the doubling fee is payable in addition to the principal fee for the engagement.

Keyboard and percussion instruments are regarded as divided into the following sub-groups, and doubling fees will not be payable for playing more than one instrument within the same sub-group:

- (a) *Keyboard Instruments:*
 - (i) Piano
 - (ii) Celeste, dulcitone
 - (iii) Organ, harmonium, multitone, mustel organ
 - (iv) Harpsichord, spinet, clavichord, virginals
- (b) *Percussion Instruments:*
 - (i) Tuned (mallet) instruments
(vibraphone, xylophone, marimba, glockenspiel, tubular bells)
 - (ii) Latin American rhythm instruments
 - (iii) Drums (bass drum, snare drum, tom-toms, cymbals and the usual small accessories)
 - (iv) Timpani (up to four drums)

6. Travelling Allowances

- (a) If the engagement is for a concert or rehearsal at a venue which is over fifteen miles from the recognised central point of the musician's normal centre of employment, and alternative transport is not provided and paid for by the OdaC, a travelling allowance of **37p per mile** shall be paid for all miles necessarily travelled on land in reaching, fulfilling and returning from the engagement. 'Alternative transport' shall not include the shared use of another musician's car.
- (b) If alternative transport is provided and paid for by the OdaC, a reduced travelling allowance of **19p per mile** shall be paid.
- (c) When air travel within the UK is provided and paid for by the OdaC, the travelling allowance shall be limited to a one-off payment of **£22.75** for those parts of the journey travelled in order to fulfil the engagement.
- (d) Where the engagement necessarily involves a sea journey, and the relevant fare has not been paid by the OdaC, the actual cost of the sea journey shall be reimbursed to the musician. For all engagements necessarily involving a sea journey, the musicians shall also be paid an allowance of **£9.15 per hour** or part thereof (up to a maximum of **£36.80**) based on the scheduled length of time of the sea journey. These payments are in addition to the payments due for miles necessarily travelled on land.

- (e) Where a musician has travelled by rail, and where the relevant fare has exceeded a nominal rail allowance of **19p per mile**, an additional payment shall be made to the musician, equal to the difference between the rail allowance and the actual rail fare, for that part of the journey travelled by rail.
- (f) Coach travel by musicians engaged under these Terms and Conditions shall not exceed 250 miles during any period of twenty-four hours.
- (g) In cases of dispute, the shortest recommended AA mileage shall be taken as the authority for distances.

7. Subsistence

(a) *Overnight Stay*

If the engagement involves an overnight stay and suitable accommodation is not provided by the OdaC, or if the time of return to the musician's normal centre of employment as defined in Clause 7(b) below is after 2am, a payment of **£80.00** for bed and breakfast shall be made, plus a supplement of **£35.00** when the engagement is within the area bounded by the M25 motorway. For the purposes of this clause, 'suitable accommodation' shall be defined as three-star or equivalent grade hotel, as available, with full breakfast, and single room accommodation as available and if required by the musician.

Where a musician is able to prove that s/he has travelled to an engagement by rail and has been unable to return to his/her normal centre of employment by 2am, and where that musician is also able to prove that s/he has paid for overnight accommodation, then the overnight stay payment, as defined above, shall be made.

(b) *Payment for Late Return*

When the musician's time of return to his/her normal centre of employment is between midnight and 2am, the following additional payments shall be made by the OdaC:

- Return between midnight and 12.30am **£5.25**
- Return between 12.30am and 1.00am **£10.50**
- Return between 1.00am and 2.00am **£15.75**

'Time of return' is defined with reference to the musician's time of departure from the rehearsal or concert venue, the distance to be travelled to the recognised central point of the musician's normal centre of employment, and an average speed of travel of 50mph. The time of departure is deemed to be fifteen minutes after the finishing time of the concert or rehearsal, as defined in Clause 2(a) above.

(c) *Payment for Early Call*

When a musician is required to depart from his/her normal centre of employment before 8.30am, and/or to be present at a concert or rehearsal before 8.30am, an early call payment shall be made, calculated at the rate of **£3.50 per half hour** or part thereof, subject to a **minimum of £7.00**, for all necessary travelling or working time prior to 8.30am. The time of departure from the musician's normal centre of employment is defined with reference to the contracted commencement time of the concert or rehearsal, the distance to be travelled from the recognised central point of the musician's normal centre of employment, and an average speed of travel of 50mph.

If a musician's departure time is defined as being before 6.00am, the early call payment shall be replaced by an overnight stay payment, calculated at the rate applicable to the musician's destination.

8. Porterage

Minimum porterage payments for engagements under these Terms and Conditions shall be as follows:

Group A Payment £20.10 (£25.25*)

Double Bass
 Electric Guitar
 Electric Bass Guitar

* London Weighting is payable for engagements within the London Congestion Charge Zone

Group B Payment £16.50

Bass Saxophone
 Contra Bassoon
 Tuba

Group C Payment £12.40

Bass Clarinet plus one additional wind instrument
 Baritone Saxophone
 Trombone plus one other brass instrument
 French horn plus one other brass instrument
 2 Saxophones
 'Cello

Group D Payment £45.00

Harp

Group E Porterage rates for these instruments are subject to individual negotiation:

Kit Drums
 Percussion instruments
 Timpani
 Organ
 Electronic keyboards

- (a) Porterage is defined as a contribution towards the extra time, effort and additional costs associated with the transportation of large or heavy instruments in order to fulfil an engagement.
- (b) Porterage groups are determined by whether a large or heavy instrument can reasonably be carried on public transport (Groups B, C & D), or whether it requires transportation by a standard-sized car or larger vehicle eg van. On this basis, Group A reflects the contribution towards the additional cost involved in running the car, and the time/effort involved in loading and unloading.
- (c) A full porterage payment shall be due for each day of an engagement, except where the engager has made safe provision for a musician to leave his/her instruments in situ overnight at a rehearsal or concert venue which has been used for the final call of the day, and which is also to be used for the first call of the following day. In this latter case, one porterage payment shall not be paid for each night during which the instrument is left at the venue. The OdaC must guarantee the security of the storage area and ensure that adequate insurance cover in case of loss or damage is in place.
- (d) A porterage payment shall not be paid when the OdaC makes arrangements to transport the instruments, unless the Musician is required to bring the instruments to a pick-up point nominated by the OdaC, in which latter case porterage payments shall be due in full.
- (e) The OdaC will use his/her best endeavours to ensure that the venue will provide parking facilities for those transporting large or heavy instruments by car.
- (f) In cases where air travel within the UK is provided by the OdaC under Clause 6(c) of these Terms and Conditions, and it is agreed between the OdaC and the musician that where special arrangements are necessary

for the safe transportation of instruments listed in Groups A, B, C, D and E above, any additional costs in respect of transportation of these instruments may be subject to negotiation.

- (g) Any additional cost of hiring instruments or hiring transportation for large or heavy instruments shall be the subject of individual negotiation.

9. Electronic Instruments

Instruments and devices incorporating pre-recorded sounds or producing sounds by electronic means are not to be used to replace or reduce the employment of conventional instrumentalists on engagements carried out under these Terms and Conditions where conventional instrumentalists may be reasonably or traditionally expected to be used.

10 (a) Broadcasts and Recordings

With exception of the provisions for EPK that appear in clause 10(b), acceptance of a live engagement does not place the musician under any obligation to permit his/her performance to be broadcast or recorded. Any proposed broadcast or recording must be specifically agreed in advance between the OdaC and the MU unless it takes place under the terms of clause 10(b) or under an existing collective Agreement between the broadcasting or recording company and the Union. Media engagement fees for such broadcasts or recordings are payable in addition to the fees for live engagements.

10 (b) Electronic Press Kit (EPK)

Musicians engaged under this Agreement will permit the OdaC to record sections of rehearsal and performance in sound and vision or in sound only for no additional fee in order to produce an EPK. The OdaC will inform the Musician of the intention to produce an EPK recording at the time of engagement. The recorded excerpts used in the EPK must not include any musical piece in its entirety, however short, and will have a maximum duration in aggregate of 10 minutes. Audio/visual recordings of such excerpts should, where possible, be watermarked throughout their duration to deter unauthorised uses. EPK recordings may be used for promotional purposes only and may include free and for non-commercial presentation by the OdaC to promote ticket sales for the concert(s) for which the Musician has been engaged under this Agreement. EPK recordings may also be used by third parties such as tourist boards and government agencies to promote the venue or city in which the concert(s) will take place.

Recordings shall not be used for the evaluation of the performance of any musician engaged under this Agreement.

11. Health & Safety

The OdaC shall use his/her best endeavours to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of musicians engaged under this Agreement. Musicians engaged under this Agreement will take all reasonable care to ensure that they do not endanger themselves or anyone else who may be affected by any activity undertaken in the performance of their engagement and will co-operate with the OdaC in meeting health and safety requirements.

Musicians engaged under this agreement will take all reasonable care to ensure that they do not endanger themselves whilst travelling to and from engagements. Long journeys should be planned in advance to allow sufficient time for regular breaks and sufficient time should be allowed to take account of unforeseeable weather and traffic conditions and to navigate unfamiliar routes. Organisations such as the AA, MU and ROSPA recommend a 15 minute break should be taken in every 2 hours of driving.

12. Delayed Payment

The Engager will inform musicians at the time of the engagement of the intended date of payment of all fees and ancillary payments properly due. The Engager will use his best endeavours to make payment to the musician, or credited to the musicians' bank account, no later than 30 days after the engagement or at the next regular scheduled date for payment runs.

13. Force Majeure

The obligations of the engager and the musician under this agreement shall be suspended and unenforceable for so long as any of the circumstances specified as Force Majeure make it impossible or impractical. Force Majeure shall

be deemed as an act or event beyond the reasonable control of the engager or the musician, against which it is impossible or commercially unfeasible to insure or to claim compensation from a third party for, caused by:

- a) lightning, flood, storm, earthquake or any other unpredictable freak of nature,
- b) fire, explosion, accident, epidemic,
- c) strike, lockout or other industrial dispute on the part of persons employed by any person who is not a party to this agreement
- d) riot, war or acts of terrorism
- e) any act of government or other competent authority
- f) any other circumstance beyond the reasonable control of the OdaC or the musician and which are not caused by either the management or the musician

14. Disputes

Should any dispute arise in the interpretation of the Agreement which cannot be settled at local level, it shall be referred to a single arbitrator, being a person of standing acceptable to both parties whose decision on the dispute shall be binding to both parties. If agreement of an arbitrator cannot be reached within seven days the procedures shall be regarded as exhausted.

15. Duration

These Terms and Conditions shall remain in force until 31st December 2026.



Tony Ayres

Artistic Director, Orchestra da Camera

Date: 13th February 2026



Sam Dunkley

Orchestras Official, Musicians' Union

Date: 13th February 2026