



THORNBURY ORCHESTRA

www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk

Job Title: Musical Director
Organization: Thornbury Orchestra
Location: Thornbury, South Gloucestershire, BS35
Rehearsal Venue: St Helen's Church, Alveston, BS35 3QT
Contract Type: Freelance
Remuneration: Dependent on experience
Closing Date: 20th November 2026

Role Overview

We are looking for an inspiring and enthusiastic Musical Director and Conductor to lead our friendly, ambitious amateur orchestra, starting in September 2027. You will guide our musical development, plan engaging programmes, and lead us through our weekly rehearsals and regular seasonal concerts.

About Us

- **Players:** Around 30-40 amateur musicians of mixed abilities, typically grade 5 and above
- **Rehearsals:** Wednesday evenings from 7.45pm – 9.45pm during school term-time. Rehearsals are typically alternate 'full orchestra' and sectional rehearsals. In addition, we have an 'Orchestra Day' in early January.
- **Concerts:** 2 performances per year (January and June), including a mix of standard classical repertoire.

Main Responsibilities

- **Rehearsal Leadership:** Prepare and lead rehearsals with energy, patience, and clear communication, ensuring players both improve and enjoy the music-making.
- **Repertoire Planning:** Collaborate with the orchestra music committee to select a balanced, exciting programme that challenges the orchestra while appealing to our audiences.
- **Musical Development:** Nurture the ensemble's overall standard, helping individual sections and players grow in confidence.
- **Performances:** Conduct all main concert performances and briefly introduce pieces to the audience when appropriate.
- **Committee Liaison:** Attend regular committee meetings (a few times a year) to discuss future plans, scheduling, and logistics.

Person Specification

Essential:

- Proven experience in conducting symphonic or orchestral repertoire to a good standard.



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- Excellent communication and motivational skills tailored for non-professional, volunteer musicians.
- A wide knowledge of orchestral repertoire and score preparation.
- Approachable, positive, and collaborative working style.

Desirable:

- Previous experience working with amateur, community, or youth orchestras.
- Experience working with guest soloists.

How to Apply

Please send your CV and a brief covering letter explaining your approach to working with amateur orchestras to chair@thornburyorchestra.org.uk

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a brief interview in December and a practical audition with the orchestra in late January or early February 2027