

## Vacancy Type:

Orchestral Leader

## Application deadline:

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## About us

Croydon Symphony Orchestra is one of South London's leading amateur orchestras. Founded in 1920 from a group originally formed by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, we pride ourselves on performing music to the very highest standards, performing throughout the London Borough of Croydon.

From March 2026, our interim Musical Director will be Christopher Braime, who has led some of the finest amateur orchestras in the country. Working with him, we aim to keep what has made us successful for over 100 years, but also to respond to the modern and fast-developing culture within the borough, reaching out to new partners and using our orchestra to raise awareness of, and directly support, good causes. We seek a dynamic and experienced leader who will be able to support the orchestra in these ambitions, and will be motivated by this journey. Our website is <https://croydonsymphony.com/>

## Description of vacancy/ Role Summary and requirements:

As Orchestral Leader, you will:

- **Provide inspirational musical leadership** by setting a high technical and artistic standard within the string section and the wider orchestra, serving as a role model for preparation, professionalism, and ensemble discipline.
- **Act as principal liaison with the musical director**, supporting their artistic vision, offering musical insight, and ensuring clear communication of bowings, stylistic intentions, and rehearsal priorities (particularly in string sectionals).
- **Lead the violin section and coordinate string playing**, preparing, and distributing bowings in advance prior to first rehearsal, guiding sectional cohesion, and helping to maintain a unified interpretative approach.
- **Contribute to orchestra development and musical quality**, including mentoring less experienced players, assisting with auditions or seating

decisions where applicable, and helping to foster a positive, respectful, and ambitious musical culture.

### **What We Are Looking For:**

- Strong technical ability and musicality on the violin with previous orchestral leadership experience.
- Leadership skills and demonstration of an ability to coach, encourage and inspire players, ideally including in an amateur setting.
- An understanding of amateur musical groups that aspire to excellence, and a readiness to contribute to the orchestra's development.
- Collaborative skills to support and work with the Musical Director and more widely across the orchestra. Commitment to regular rehearsals and performances.

The position will be vacant from March 2026 (we appreciate some applicants may be engaged after March and will make allowances. Rehearsals are currently on Friday evenings 7.30 – 9.45pm in East Croydon United Reform Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove CRO 5LP.

A fee will be payable, negotiated with the successful candidate, for rehearsals and concerts. In agreeing fees with you we will consider your skills and experience. As an amateur orchestra, fees will be set within that context and initially up to a maximum of £100 per rehearsal (30 rehearsals a year) and £240 for concert day, fees dependent on experience. This role does not constitute employment and is not salaried.

### **Application process:**

Please submit your CV / biography, detailing your experience, which can be a link to your website, with a short covering email explaining why you are interested in the position and what you could bring to Croydon Symphony Orchestra, taking into account what we are looking for.

We aim to invite selected applicants to a short interview (online) in w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February. Shortlisted candidates would be invited to a trial rehearsal / audition, on either 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> March.

Please submit your application or any queries to the following e-mail address: [croydonsymphonyorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:croydonsymphonyorchestra@gmail.com)