

We are seeking a new

Musical Director & Conductor





Eastbourne Concert Orchestra, a leading community orchestra in East Sussex, is looking to appoint a new Musical Director and Conductor for January 2027 due to the relocation of its current MD.

Eastbourne Concert Orchestra is a non-audition, full-size symphony orchestra made up of local professional, semi-professional and community musicians from across Sussex. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings during school term time and perform three to four concerts per year of varied repertoire, ranging from full symphonies to light music, film scores and musicals. Recent highlights include a concert of music solely by female composers including the Gaelic Symphony by Amy Beach in spring 2026, Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez alongside Tchaikovsky's 3rd Symphony in spring 2025 and a themed concert with music from the America's in Summer 2023.

The Orchestra celebrated its 75th anniversary in July 2026 with a sold-out gala concert in Eastbourne's Winter Garden playing favourites from across our repertoire including themes from Star Trek, Oklahoma! and Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite.

The ethos of the orchestra is to bring music lovers and musicians together in the community and raise the profile of classical music in the town.

Over the last 12 years, under the direction of our current conductor, the orchestra has gone from strength to strength, grown in numbers, performed more challenging repertoire and built a strong reputation in the area. We are now looking for a skilled, ambitious and motivating conductor to continue this journey.

Applications are invited for this post by means of a CV and short covering letter by the Closing date **11pm October 15 2026**. Applications received after this date may not be considered.

For further information about the role, to arrange an informal discussion with the orchestra Chairman, and to apply please contact the Orchestra Secretary, Liz Bux: **secretary.ecorch@gmail.com**.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Dr John Caroe

Chair, Eastbourne Concert Orchestra

Role of Conductor



We are looking for a dynamic conductor with experience, commitment and enthusiasm to lead us. The principal responsibility of the new Musical Director and Conductor is to enhance and further develop the Orchestra in both repertoire and performance.

The Musical Director and Conductor is expected to:

- Take all, or most, rehearsals for concerts and events. Our rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings in school term time, 7.30 – 9.30pm in Eastbourne, East Sussex.
- Conduct all public performances unless agreed otherwise. These are usually on a Tuesday evening in and around Eastbourne.
- Liaise and agree with the committee to ensure that all the musical leadership requirements of rehearsals and performances are covered. This includes engaging a deputy, if required, when the conductor is not available.
- Plan all rehearsals to ensure the orchestra's readiness for performances.
- Work with the Leader of the Orchestra and committee to select and plan concerts, themes and repertoire, liaising with the librarian on the availability of scores and parts and continuing our commitment to raise the profile of music by underrepresented groups.
- Advise on the balance of the orchestra and whether any action needs to be taken.
- Motivate, encourage and support the players of the orchestra through clear communication.
- Liaise with the committee to ensure all marketing materials, including posters, social media and press releases; programmes and performance notes accurately reflect upcoming performances.
- Recommend and arrange, with the Leader of the Orchestra, all additional musicians as required. All soloists and additional paid players should be approved by the committee.
- Attend committee meetings, usually two to three per year on a Tuesday evening outside of term-time, when required to do so. The conductor is an ex-officio member of the committee.

Remuneration

- £50 per rehearsal and concert. Fees are reviewed regularly in line with performance.

Experience & Skills

- Professional musical training.
- Experience in training and conducting large ensembles for excellent public performance.
- Experience in conducting a varied repertoire.
- Ability and knowledge to recommend suitable and balanced musical programmes.
- Demonstrate and work within the financial constraints of a non-professional orchestra and plan appropriate repertoire accordingly.
- Focus on continual training and improvement of the orchestra's sound and balance.

Personal Qualities

- Committed, energetic, enthusiastic, approachable and adaptable.
- Patient and willing to work with musicians of varied abilities to achieve high performance standards.
- Punctual, reliable and well organised.
- Ability to work with the Committee to improve and maintain high standards, whilst respecting the orchestra's purpose and ethos.
- Committed to promoting and demonstrating equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Demonstrate strong and clear communication skills, have a good sense of humour, and be willing to compromise.
- Demonstrate the ability to make a positive impact on the orchestra, whilst inspiring and encouraging members to tackle unfamiliar and challenging repertoire as well as well-known orchestral works.
- Be willing to make a strong commitment to Eastbourne Concert Orchestra and participate in occasional social and non-playing events.

Application Process

Vacancy advertised	Vacancy publicly advertised 15 September - 15 October 2026
Application deadline	Applications received by 11pm on 15 October 2026
Applications reviewed	Applications reviewed and shortlisted for interview by 22 October 2026.
Shortlisted candidates	Selected shortlisted candidates take short rehearsal with the orchestra and interview on Tuesday 3 November 2026
Appointment begins	New conductor takes up appointment at first rehearsal of Spring Term – 5 January 2027

Applications

Please send your completed application by email to the Orchestra Secretary, Liz Bux: **secretary.ecorch@gmail.com.**

If you have any queries about the application process, or to arrange an informal discussion about the role with the Orchestra Chairman, John Caroe, please send these by email via the Orchestra Secretary: **secretary.ecorch@gmail.com.**

Your application should include the following:

- » CV
- » A brief covering letter of no more than 500 words explaining why you are applying for the role, your relevant experience and what you feel you can bring to Eastbourne Concert Orchestra.
- » References from two professionals.