

## **Job Description – Principal Conductor**

**Company Name:** Ballarat Symphony Orchestra Inc.

**Reporting to:** BSO Committee

**Payment:** Negotiable – paid per call.

**Location:** Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts, 1220 Howitt St Wendouree Vic 3355.

**Purpose:** We are seeking a Principal Conductor who will commit to assisting in building a solid foundation, in collaboration with the BSO Committee, volunteers and musicians, will work to present music of the highest quality, heighten the Ballarat Symphony Orchestra’s visibility in the community, establish new partnerships, and develop greater audiences. Someone that will take us on a musical journey, someone that inspires us. Someone that wants to make the Ballarat Symphony Orchestra something special!

**Availability:** 3 rehearsal seasons per year consisting of 8 weeks of rehearsal, with 2.5 hours per week conducting required at a minimum. Rehearsals Typically take place on a Friday evening between 7.30 and 10pm with a 20-minute break. Concert seasons are usually placed during Victorian School Terms 1,2 and 4, with concerts in March, June and November. Concert seasons typically consist of ten calls. Concerts are typically scheduled on a Sunday afternoon, preceded by a Friday evening dress rehearsal. The specific concert and rehearsal schedule will be developed by the Music Director in conjunction with the BSO Committee. Early and complete repertoire scheduling is essential. There may be an occasional rehearsal scheduling conflict, necessitating an alternate rehearsal location in the Ballarat area. Please note that rehearsal days, dates and times within a season will be periodically under review and subject to change under certain circumstances.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

#### **Reporting Relationship and Communication**

- Work closely with and report directly to the Committee.
- Consult with the Orchestra’s Treasurer regarding the budget.
- Communicate promptly, clearly and regularly with Committee via email or phone, or in person.
- The conductor is a key member of the Program Subcommittee.

## **Leadership**

- Develop and enhance the artistic vision and quality of the Orchestra in collaboration with the committee.
- Commit to fulfilling the Orchestra’s potential as an artistic and community resource in line with the Purposes of the Orchestra (outlined at the end of this document).
- Help establish a vital presence in the cultural community with aims to engage local youth.
- Work with the BSO programming sub-committee and take prime responsibility for the repertoire to be performed by the Orchestra and programming requirements.
- Subject to availability, encourage, assist with and participate in non-scheduled concerts and community performance requests.

## **Musical Responsibilities**

- Liaise with Program Subcommittee and Orchestra Leader to reach decisions including the planning, supervision, preparation, programming, rehearsing and conducting of all scheduled concerts.
- Conduct 3 concerts per year and all rehearsals pertaining to the concerts.
- Create the rehearsal schedule for each performance.
- Assist in the development, implementation and monitoring of artistic objectives for the Orchestra that ensure high levels of artistic quality.
- Liaise with Orchestra leader for bowing and other technical issues.
- Liaise with Orchestra conveners regarding appropriate selection of musicians.
- Liaise with Orchestra librarian regarding the sourcing of music.
- Liaise with Stage Manager for operational performance requirements.
- Supervise the work of any assistant and/or guest conductors.

## **Principal players, guest artists and conductors**

- Supervise the selection/audition of principal players (within the policies and procedures of the Orchestra).
- Supervise the selection/audition of soloists (within the policies and procedures of the Orchestra), preferably showcasing regional talent.
- Organise and coordinate with a cover conductor/assistant conductor when required.

## **Non-musical Responsibilities**

- Represent the Orchestra at official functions and receptions when appropriate.
- Participate in promotional activities.
- Attend specific Committee meetings when appropriate.
- Function within the Orchestra’s Policies and Procedures.

## **Essential Skills**

### **Communication**

- Respectful communication style, being able to work collaboratively and fairly with all members of the Orchestra and Committee.
- Sound verbal and written communication skills.
- Sense of humour.
- Ability to speak confidently to an audience in a friendly engaging manner.

### **Awareness**

- Demonstrate good time management.
- Awareness and appreciation of all performers, that they are from a varied musical background, also that they are volunteers.
- Awareness of the current field of solo artists, contemporary music, and performance practices.

### **Flexibility**

- Ability to work with an Orchestra membership that includes musicians of varying backgrounds and abilities.
- Demonstrate flexibility to adapt to Orchestral constraints and goals.
- Willingness to promote content and program works by Australian composers from time to time.
- Considerate and flexible approach to sorting out section issues.
- Preferences shown for local or regional talent, willingness to tailor programs to suit.

### **Guidance**

- Clear and consistent interpretation of the music whilst remaining easy for musicians to follow.
- A fun but also organised approach to rehearsals to maximise enjoyment whilst on a limited time available.
- Excellent musical interpretation and ability to draw this from players in a positive and entertaining way.
- Ability to make symphonic music relevant and exciting for new audiences.

## **Experience**

- BA Degree in Music (or higher).
- Exceptional musicianship and conducting skills.
- Good programming skills, the ability to assist with choosing repertoire that will develop growth of our audience.
- Proven ability to provide a performance experience of the highest calibre through application of effective baton and rehearsal technique.
- Proven ability for developing imaginative programming ideas that have significance to the Orchestra, the community and the occasion.
- Excellent communication and leadership skills.
- Three or more years related experience performing the majority of the duties outlined above.
- Significant musical talent including an acute ear for Orchestral intonation, balance and colour, and skills in sight-reading and transposition.
- Podium presence that captures the power of body language to enhance the quality of the Orchestra's performance and support the Orchestra's physical and emotional wellbeing.
- Basic knowledge of a non-profit organisation, with an understanding and appreciation of the roles of the Committee, the musicians and the support volunteers.

## **PURPOSES**

The principal purpose of the Orchestra is the promotion of music and the performing arts by:

- 1.1. providing Ballarat and district musicians with the opportunity to present concerts of a nature, scale and musical quality commensurate with attracting informed and appreciative audiences from Ballarat and beyond;
- 1.2. enabling its players to refine their Orchestral and performance skills;
- 1.3. promoting the appreciation of live symphonic and Orchestral music;
- 1.4. supporting emerging musicians, including by offering:
  - (a) grants, scholarships and prizes; and
  - (b) exceptional young musicians the opportunity to play with the Orchestra; and
  - (c) workshops and masterclasses.

*For applications and enquiries please send your details to Janice Ballinger at the Ballarat Symphony Orchestra Committee via email on [BSOVP18@gmail.com](mailto:BSOVP18@gmail.com)*

*Closing date: Close of business Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018.*