

**THE GREAT BRITISH AMATEUR ORCHESTRA** (working title)

**Application Form**

BBC Music Television is searching for the most inspirational orchestra, one that best captures the spirit of great British amateur music.

We’re looking for orchestras from across the UK willing to take up the challenge and compete for the chance to perform at a major public event covered by BBC Television.

Are you an amateur orchestra? Do you rehearse regularly and perform for your local community? Do you want to improve your playing skills and learn from some of the most respected names in classical music?

Has your orchestra got bags of potential – just waiting to be fulfilled? Is your orchestra full of people who are passionate about making music together?

Are you willing to go head to head with amateur orchestras from across the UK and through a series of challenging heats to become our people’s orchestra?

Please attach a recent photograph of your orchestra here

**Application Form**

To apply you need to complete and submit this form ASAP and return it along with a recording of your orchestra playing (see below for details) either by email to amateur.orchestras@bbc.co.uk or by mail to:

Amateur Orchestras

BBC Music Television

1st Floor, Western House

99 Great Portland Street

London W1W 7NY

**Application recording**

Please submit a recording of your orchestra rehearsing two short pieces or movement extracts (a maximum of 6 minutes long in total). Ensure the two extracts contrast in mood and tempo. This can be recorded on any device such as a phone or tablet and sent in via a link, as long as the recording is audible and you feel it can reasonably capture the range of your orchestra. The best place to record from is usually where your conductor stands. Please state the name of your orchestra and your location at the beginning of the recording.

Please also film, on your phone or tablet, brief interviews (roughly 1 minute each) from 3 different members of the orchestra (including the conductor) who you consider are strong characters or have something interesting to say, either about themselves or about your orchestra. (Please don’t worry, we don’t expect the footage to win any BAFTAs but we would like it to give us a feel of what your orchestra is like).

The BBC retains the right to broadcast the footage, subject to any underlying clearances. Please ensure that you have the necessary consents from any contributors appearing in the footage and if possible please avoid including anyone in the footage who is under the age of 16.

If you are shortlisted, the production team will conduct a phone interview with a member of your orchestra and following that may visit and film your orchestra.

**Filming dates**

It’s anticipated that filming for the series will take place between March and September 2016. Whenever possible we will endeavour to film in the evenings or at weekends but there will be some days where that may not be possible and we would ask that the orchestra make themselves available where that is the case.

There is a full list of provisional dates at the end of this document. We’ll aim to be as accommodating as possible but we are operating under a tight schedule and some of the dates are unmoveable. Although we understand there may be a small number of members who cannot commit to all the filming dates, for filming purposes please let the producer know as far in advance as possible.

**Filming**

Over the course of the series, during rehearsals, each orchestra will be allocated contact time with the judge (a well-known professional conductor) and a mentor (music professional), both of whom will offer guidance, mentoring and advice to all orchestras.

There will be 4 heats where each orchestra will face an on screen challenge and a final performance. These will be judged and one of the orchestras will be deselected and will not move on to the next round of the contest. By the end of the process, there will be one orchestra left: they will be crowned our winner and given the chance to perform at a major event covered by BBC Television.

**Selection Criteria**

We’re looking for amateur orchestras from across the country and for the purpose of this application form we define an orchestra as: a large group of instrumentalists, led by a conductor, containing strings, woodwind, brass and percussion sections – performing largely, but not exclusively, classical music.

Our judge, alongside BBC Execs, will look for orchestras that they feel best capture the spirit of British amateur music. Selected orchestras will not only have a relationship with their local community, but also the ability and potential to produce great inspiring performances and to rise to a number of orchestral challenges. We also aim to be fully inclusive when selecting orchestras for this show and reflect where possible the depth and breadth both of the country’s orchestral community and the wider viewing audience.

Our judge will decide where he/she is likely to make the greatest difference and which orchestras are likely to benefit most from the experience of taking part in the contest. In short it’s not just about the aptitude – it’s also about the attitude.

The five orchestras selected to participate will have, *together,* a healthy balance of each of these critical success factors. We are not searching for an orchestra to transform into a group of professionals, but rather gifted amateur orchestras prepared to strive to be the very best they can be.

Please answer all our questions and provide as much information as possible. If you need any guidance or have any questions please email us at amateur.orchestras@bbc.co.uk and a member of the team will get back to you.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you

**The closing date is Friday 12th February 2015 at 12pm.**

The BBC reserves the right to continue to search for orchestras after the deadline date has passed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What is your orchestra called?Why was that name chosen? |  |
| Main contact name (and instrument played in the orchestra) |  |
|  Address |  |
|  Mobile number |  |
|  Work number |  |
| Home number |  |
| Contact email address |  |
| Group email address |  |
| How many members does your orchestra have? (the working core)Please list the average number in each section: | String:Wind:Brass:Percussion: |
| What are your membership criteria?  |  |
| What is your conductor’s name?Is your conductor a professional musician?Is this a paid or unpaid position? |  |
| What is your orchestral leader’s name?Is your orchestral leader a professional musician? Is this a paid or unpaid position? |  |
| Do you rehearse regularly? When and where?  |  |
| Has your orchestra *or any of its members* appeared in any other TV programmes? |  |
| Are any of your members BBC staff? Please give details of their names, roles and departments |  |
| When performing in public, who do you normally play to and where?  |  |
| What are your ambitions/plans for your orchestra? (please limit your answer to 50 words)  |  |
| If you had to give it a personality, how would you describe your orchestra? Sum up your orchestra – what makes you unique? (please limit your answer to 50 words)  |  |
| Name your most memorable good and bad concert or rehearsal moments.(please limit your answer to 80 words)  |  |

**REPERTOIRE**

We want to know about your favourite repertoire. Please list four works/titles in each of the categories listed below. Select the pieces that you feel most confident performing, list them in order of preference – and indicate the number of players involved (approx.).

Symphony:

Concerto:

Opera (include extracts and individual arias. You will not be expected to provide singers.):

Choral:

Showpiece (This is a ‘freestyle’ category, pieces that fall outside the genres already identified. Please include your favourite show-stopping repertoire. It can be anything you want, Classical or non-Classical; from The Planets to West Side Story, a glittering Overture, Musical medley, Tone Poem or dazzling film score. Again indicate the number of players involved (approx.):

The BBC will only use your personal details for the purposes of administering this contest, unless you have opted to receive email updates about forthcoming shows, tours and events, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone not connected with this contest without your permission. Your information will not be held for longer than is required for the purposes of administering this contest and will be securely destroyed at the end of production. Please visit the BBC's Privacy & Cookies Policy ([www.bbc.co.uk/privacy](http://www.bbc.co.uk/privacy)) for more information. If you have further questions or would like to amend, update or delete your personal information we collected for this production, please contact us at amateur.orchestras@bbc.co.uk.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND APPLICATION RULES**

* The orchestra has been established for at least one year and plays regularly to the public.
* The orchestra is based in the UK.
* For practical reasons orchestras smaller than 40 players or greater than 75 will not be considered.
* We require from the recording of the application video through to the participation stages and then Grand Finale Performance that at least 75% of the core orchestra line-up remains un-changed. When a member is substituted for another then the producers will require prior notification at the earliest opportunity.
* Only the conductor and the leader may be professional musicians (by which we mean that they predominantly earn their living from music performance).
* Up to 25% of the orchestra may be semi-professional, by which we mean that they receive some income from music performance but music performance is not their full time occupation or main source of income.
* We will not accept applications from school, youth or university orchestras (unless made up of predominantly non-music students, and/or university staff) or from conservatoires or training orchestras.
* If any member of the orchestra (other than the conductor or leader) has accepted work as a full-time professional musician that starts during the contest, or accepts such work during the course of the contest that would start before the broadcast of the final episode, he/she must inform production and may be asked to withdraw from the contest (or decline the work).
* All members must be aged 16 and over on 1st February 2016 (the “**Minimum Age**”). In the event any member is under 18 years of age as of the first date of filming please notify the producers and the parents’/guardians’ consent must be obtained.
* The Orchestra must neither have a current recording deal with a UK or international record label nor have had such a recording deal in the last twelve months, nor be in discussions for such a deal to commence before 2017.
* All members must have the right to live and work in the UK (including the Isle of Man and Channel Islands).
* The conductor and the leader of your orchestra must not be a member of staff at the BBC or any of its wholly owned subsidiaries. Nevertheless, up to three other members of the orchestra may be BBC staff provided that they do not work for BBC Music or any area which has a direct connection with this contest. .
* If successful, all orchestra members will be asked to sign a release form in respect of their rights in all contributions, including musical performance, in order to allow the BBC to broadcast, distribute or otherwise exploit the programme by all means and any media in perpetuity.
* If you are successful, each orchestra member must be willing to undertake background checks (including criminal records checks) and disclose details of any criminal convictions and/or unspent convictions other than driving offences which have not resulted in a ban or a more serious sentence. Any disclosure is not in itself preclusion to eligibility for appearing in the contest but the BBC has the right to decide in its sole discretion whether any incident disclosed would have a material impact on the contest or programme and therefore affect the eligibility of the applicant orchestra.
* The BBC reserves the right to cancel or alter the various stages of the contest, including without limitation the structure, dates, locations, rules and content, and will have no liability to any applicant in respect of such changes.
* The BBC will consider all valid applications but will make selection decisions in its sole discretion, and such decisions are final. The BBC cannot guarantee to acknowledge receipt of applications or to contact all unsuccessful applicants.
* If your orchestra’s application is successful the BBC will inform you by 11th March 2016.

**Provisional Filming dates:**

**Episode One**

* One day between **11th and 19th March** – when the Judge and presenters will visit your orchestra and set the first performance challenge.
* At least 2 full rehearsals as well as some sectional rehearsals between 21st March and the 13th May (dates to be agreed with the production team)
* The **final performance** on **Monday 16th or Tuesday 17th May** all orchestras will perform at one venue TBC so please be prepared to travel.

**Episode Two**

* One day between **23rd – 28th May** when the Judge and presenters will visit your orchestra and set the 2nd performance challenge.
* At least 2 full rehearsals and some sectional rehearsals between the **30th May** and the **10th June** (dates to be agreed with the production team).
* The **final performance** on **Sunday 12th June** all orchestras will perform at one venue TBC so please be prepared to travel.

**Episode Three**

* One day between **15th** and **18th June** when the Judge and presenters will visit your orchestra and set the 3rd performance challenge.
* At least 2 full rehearsals and some sectional rehearsals between **25th June and 15th July** (dates to be agreed with the production team).
* The **final performances** will take place on one of these days: **18th, 19th, 20th or 21st July,** probably in your locality but we may ask you travel.

**Episode Four**

* One day between **28th – 31st July** when the Judge and presenters will visit the remaining two orchestras and set the final performance challenge.
* Between **1st August** and **9th September** we’ll film rehearsals, extra mentoring classes and the build up to the performance which will determine which orchestra will go on to the final performance. Dates TBC but the production team will work closely with the orchestras to try and build in holiday breaks.
* **The final performance will take place on 10th September.**

**Please note all dates are provisional**