

# Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title</b>	2026 Cybec Assistant Conductor	<b>Date</b>	February 2025
<b>Department</b>	Artistic Operations	<b>Reports to:</b>	Head of Learning and Engagement
<b>Location</b>	Various - MSO Office, Southbank, Hamer Hall and other performance and rehearsal venues as required	<b>Role Status:</b>	12-month fixed term

### 1. POSITION BACKGROUND

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra is seeking expressions of interest for the next Cybec Assistant Conductor.

The Assistant Conductor position is a unique opportunity for an emerging conductor to build both practical and theoretical skills, knowledge and experience within an artistically vibrant and excellence-driven orchestral setting.

This is a structured and holistic professional development opportunity which blends both formal and informal learning opportunities across a twelve-month period to prepare a suitably skilled individual for the next step in their conducting and artistic leadership career.

The fellowship will commence in January 2026 for a period of 12 months.

### 2. DIMENSIONS and WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

<b>Reports to</b>	Head of Learning & Engagement
<b>Direct Working Relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Artistic Planning</li> <li>• Director of Artistic Planning</li> <li>• MSO Musicians</li> <li>• CEO</li> <li>• MSO Chief Conductor</li> <li>• MSO Principal Conductor</li> <li>• Learning &amp; Engagement Lead</li> <li>• MSO Artistic Operations Department (Artistic Planning and Library, Operations, Orchestra Management, Production)</li> <li>• Other departments and stakeholders as appropriate/required</li> </ul>

# Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

## 4. PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The fellowship is structured to facilitate learning and skill development across the following subject areas:

- CONDUCTING PEDAGOGY;
- ORCHESTRAL KNOWLEDGE AND LEADERSHIP;
- ARTISTIC AND COMMERCIAL PLANNING;
- ORCHESTRAL OPERATIONS.

This is a practical, experientially driven fellowship, which will involve:

- Shadowing selected Conductors for MSO rehearsals, performances and/or recordings;
- Assisting Chief Conductor, Jaime Martín, Principal Conductor, Benjamin Northey, and visiting conductors, where required and possible (including acting as understudy/providing cover as needed);
- Participation in mentoring sessions with selected conductors to receive feedback and skill development advice;
- Leadership development and career planning with the CEO;
- Conducting off-stage musicians when required;
- Conducting selected education, family and regional performances, as well as small ensembles for other artistic projects and sponsor/donor events as required;
- Working with section principals to gain an understanding of the leadership, artistic and operational aspects of their roles within the Orchestra;
- Opportunities with each MSO administration area to develop a holistic understanding and awareness of core business operations and the way in which each contributes to the overall success of a professional Symphony Orchestra.

## 5. PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful applicant will hold the following skills, experience and attributes:

- High level of musical training combined with sophisticated knowledge of orchestral music;
- Demonstrable musicianship skills of an excellent standard;
- Demonstrable leadership skills in a musical context;
- Conducting experience encompassing a wide range of repertoire;
- Polished and professional presentation and communication skills;
- A collaborative and personable style in working and interacting with others;
- Responsive to, and proactively seeks, feedback to inform growth and development;
- Highly organised, with an ability to balance competing priorities;
- Maturity, flexibility, emotional intelligence and resilience.

This position is only available to citizens of Australia or New Zealand, permanent residents of Australia or those that have the legal right to work in Australia.

Applicants must also have a current Working with Children Check from an Australian State or Territory and a current Police Check.

## 6. APPLICATIONS / FURTHER INFORMATION

# Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Applications close **9am Monday 17 March 2025**.

Please submit applications to the Learning & Engagement Team at [lei@mso.com.au](mailto:lei@mso.com.au) including a DropBox link of the recorded materials.

Application materials required are as follows:

- CV and cover letter;
- Dropbox link to recorded footage of the candidate conducting an ensemble.
  - Footage should be of two unedited, contrasting excerpts conducting an ensemble of any size

The application process will involve three rounds:

## ROUND ONE

1. Viewing of recorded footage of the candidate conducting an ensemble; and
2. Review of cover letter and CV.

## ROUND TWO

Live audition with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra on **Tuesday 22 April 2025**

## ROUND THREE

Further audition and interview in the weeks of **23 and 30 June 2025** (you would need to be available for both weeks).

For further information regarding this fellowship opportunity, including the application process, please contact:

Erica Dawkins

Learning & Engagement Lead

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

[dawkinse@mso.com.au](mailto:dawkinse@mso.com.au)

## 7. POSITION DESCRIPTION MAINTENANCE

<b>Date of last review:</b>	February 2025
<b>Conducted By:</b>	Head of Learning & Engagement
<b>Date for next review:</b>	As required

<b>Acknowledgement</b>	I have read the Position Description and agree to diligently and faithfully perform the duties to the standards required at all times. I understand that if I have any questions or require any support I will consult with my manager and/or a member of the People and Culture team.
------------------------	--

# Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	