

# MSO

Lead Teaching Artist  
Beginner Ensemble, *The Pizzicato Effect*  
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES, MAY 2021



# Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

## About the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

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Each year the MSO engages with more than 5 million people through live concerts, TV, radio and online broadcasts, international and regional tours, recordings and education programs.

The MSO is a vital presence, both onstage and in the community, in cultivating classical music in Australia. Internationally acclaimed, the Orchestra nurtures strong cultural partnerships throughout South East Asia. The MSO is the only Australian orchestra partnered with UNITEL, the world's leading distributor of classical music programs for film, television and video.

The MSO regularly attracts great artists from around the globe; including Anne-Sophie Mutter, Lang Lang, Renée Fleming and Thomas Hampson, while bringing Melbourne's finest musicians to the world through tours to China, Indonesia, Europe and the United States.

The nation's first professional orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra has been the sound of the city of Melbourne since 1906. The MSO was the first Australian orchestra to perform overseas (1965) and the first to debut at Carnegie Hall (1970).

From its home at Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne, to free summer concerts at Melbourne's largest outdoor venue, the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, to its Secret Symphony performances at unique inner-city locations, the MSO inspires a broad range of audiences with more than 160 concerts a year.

Committed to shaping and serving the city it inhabits, the MSO regularly reaches beyond the customary classical audience by collaborating with artists such as Sting, Professor Brian Cox, Nick Cave & Warren Ellis, Flight Facilities, Kate Miller-Heidke, Tim Minchin and Laura Mvula.

As a national ambassador for the arts and a champion of music education, the MSO campaigns for the rights of all people to access and learn music. Boasting carefully curated learning programs, a regional touring schedule, accessible concerts and free community events, the MSO provides opportunities for music lovers to be involved with the Orchestra, no matter their age or location.

The MSO's 2021 Artistic Family includes Principal Guest Conductor Xian Zhang, Principal Conductor in Residence Benjamin Northey, Conductor Laureate Sir Andrew Davis, Cybec Assistant Conductor Nicholas Bochner, Composer in Residence Paul Grabowsky AO and Ensemble in Residence Melbourne Ensemble.



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## Position Description

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|-------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| <b>Job Title</b>  | Lead Teaching Artist (Beginner Ensemble) <i>The Pizzicato Effect</i> | <b>Date</b>        | May 2021   |
| <b>Department</b> | Learning, Engagement & Innovation (LEI)                              | <b>Reports to</b>  | Teaching Artist Team Leader,<br>Schools Program Manager, LEI |
| <b>Location</b>   | Meadows Primary School/Zoom as necessary                             | <b>Role Status</b> | Casual   |

### 1. POSITION PURPOSE

*The Pizzicato Effect* is the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's (MSO) flagship community music program working proudly in partnership with the City of Hume, Meadows Primary School, Second Bite and Spectrum. The program provides free string instrumental and musicianship tuition to children living in the City of Hume in Victoria, Australia. The program is closely aligned with the principles of El Sistema; the internationally celebrated music program in Venezuela that promotes the benefits of communal music-making to children's development. Research undertaken by The University of Melbourne (2015) cites *The Pizzicato Effect* as a proven pathway to enhanced academic performance and social-emotional well-being for participating children.

*The Pizzicato Effect* has three clear aims:

- Social development of young people and their communities through musical accomplishments;
- Access to musical instruction, without cost as a barrier to participation;
- Provision of a safe, positive, inspiring, fun and high-aspiring learning environment that promotes engagement with school and community life.

*This role delivers The Pizzicato Effect* program based at Meadows Primary School, Broadmeadows on Monday and Wednesday afternoons during term time and/or online via Zoom as per Covid-19 restrictions guidelines.

The role includes:

- Planning, direction and vision of ensemble;
- Leadership of TA team within ensemble and wider *The Pizzicato Effect* team;
- Assuming responsibility for day-to-day delivery of lessons and classes.

### 2. MSO VALUES and BEHAVIOURS

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Excellence</b>     | We are the best we can be, artistically and commercially.   |
| <b>Leadership</b>     | We lead by example as proud and passionate advocates of our art form and our people, in Australia and on the global stage.                              |
| <b>Innovation</b>     | We are creative and seek new ways to inspire and engage our stakeholders.   |
| <b>Collaboration</b>  | We are one orchestra, and work cohesively with our partners and communities to achieve our goals.   |
| <b>Respect</b>        | We respect all those with whom we interact. We are ethical, honest, and transparent.  |
| <b>Integrity</b>      | We will be open and honest, reliable and respectful, and ethical at all times.  |
| <b>Accountability</b> | We are responsible and accountable.   |
| <b>Diversity</b>      | We reflect the diversity of our stakeholders to remain relevant, vibrant and inclusive, and engage all aspects of the Victorian community we represent. |

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### 3. DIMENSIONS and WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Reports to</b>                   | Teaching Artist Team Leader and Schools Program Manager   |
| <b>Direct Working Relationships</b> | <i>The Pizzicato Effect</i> teaching team, students and MSO Learning, Engagement & Innovation staff |

### 4. MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

The Lead Teaching Artist role provides leadership for the Beginner ensemble in all areas, including planning and program delivery. It is expected the Lead TA will conduct the ensemble during all performances and assume ultimate decision making for the ensemble in consultation with team TAs and the TA Team Leader.

Specifically, the role is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all personal conduct and teaching practice reflects the MSO's core values and aims, supporting *The Pizzicato Effect's* aims and values (see Teaching Artist Handbook);
- Providing long-term high-level planning for the ensemble including repertoire choice and technical direction with guidance from TA Team Leader;
- Giving direction to and communicating with ensemble TAs, including clear vision for term, semester and yearly goals for students;
- Providing a clear framework for session or weekly outcomes;
- Delegating responsibility to team members;
- Preparing students for all concerts and performance events as part of the ensemble team.

### 5. KEY RESULT AREA      MAJOR ACTIVITIES

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Student responsibilities</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare students for performances and engage in lifelong learning and love of music;</li><li>• Provide opportunities for self-expression and student contribution;</li><li>• Ensure safety of the learning environment and manage behaviour in accordance with <i>The Pizzicato Effect's</i> program policy;</li><li>• Prepare students for all performances in association with Teaching Artist team;</li><li>• Ensure safety of the learning environment and manage behaviour in accordance with <i>The Pizzicato Effect's</i> program policy.</li></ul> |
| <b>Staff/team responsibilities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong leadership and communication skills as well as a willingness to work in a flexible and supportive team environment;</li><li>• Develop and share ensemble goals collaboratively including short, mid term and long term goals;</li><li>• Collaborate with <i>The Pizzicato Effect</i> team and broader MSO Company to maintain an evolving, shared curriculum;</li><li>• Participate fully in scheduled planning meetings, termly professional development;</li><li>• Facilitate bi-termly planning meetings to ensure goals are met.</li></ul>      |

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| 5. KEY RESULT AREA                    | MAJOR ACTIVITIES cont.  |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Events</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong leadership and communication skills as well as a willingness to work in a flexible and supportive team environment;</li><li>• Develop and share ensemble goals collaboratively including short, mid term and long term goals;</li><li>• Collaborate with <i>The Pizzicato Effect</i> team and broader MSO Company to maintain an evolving, shared curriculum;</li><li>• Participate fully in scheduled planning meetings, termly professional development;</li><li>• Facilitate bi-termly planning meetings to ensure goals are met.</li></ul> |
| <b>Other</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carry out any other associated duties as reasonably requested.</li></ul>  |
| <b>Occupational Health and Safety</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comply with all MSO policy and procedures to ensure that all occupational health and safety (OHS) risks are minimised through awareness and application of safe working practices;</li><li>• Ensure the successful completion of emergency and evacuation drills.</li></ul>   |

## 6. ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Experience in string instrumental and general musicianship group teaching;
- Ability to instruct across all stringed instruments as required;
- High level of performance and currently working as a performer ;
- Experience with behavioural management;
- A desire to contribute meaningfully to students' wellbeing beyond musical knowledge and instruction;
- Willingness to work as part of a close-knit team;
- Strong communication skills alongside patience, resilience, maturity, lateral thinking;
- Current valid Victorian Working With Children Check (WWCC) and/or current VIT registration;
- Legal right to work in Australia;
- Compliance with MSO's Child Safety Policies and Procedures .

## 7. DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- Competency on multiple instruments would be highly valued but not essential;
- A strong interest in community and/or El Sistema and corresponding values;
- Passion and experience working with children in an educational / community context;
- A background and/or qualification in education would be highly regarded;
- A current First Aid Certificate, or a willingness to undertake official First Aid training.

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### 8. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Strong leadership and an ability to empower others;
  - Ability to act as an approachable and professional representative for Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's *The Pizzicato Effect* program by providing an exceptional level of care for students;
  - Ability to create and maintain strong relationships with students, families and team members;
  - Ability to shoulder responsibility and delegate;
  - Understanding of or a willingness to learn about cultural needs and differences;
  - Adaptability in a dynamic, challenging and highly rewarding setting;
  - Ability to work in a team with key program stakeholders in an ethnically and culturally diverse community and with internal MSO stakeholders;
  - Ability to respond and take a lead calmly and efficiently at times of key responsibility relating to managing and safeguarding young people.
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### 9. POSITION DESCRIPTION MAINTENANCE

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|----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Date of last review</b> | November 2020 |
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| <b>Conducted By:</b> | Schools Program Manager, TA Team Leader, Director of Learning, Engagement and Innovation |
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# Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

## Recruitment Process

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This is an excellent time to be joining the MSO and a fantastic opportunity for a passionate musician and educator. Working closely with a small but dedicated team, this role will be well-suited to someone looking to make a positive contribution to essential community work within the context of the MSO, a much-loved cultural icon of Melbourne and Australia.

### Key dates

Applications close 9am, Monday 14 June 2021.

Interviews will be conducted in the week beginning 14 June and the successful candidate will need to be available to commence on 12 July.

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### How to apply

To apply for this position please forward a covering letter, current resume including two referees plus a copy of your valid Working With Children Check with the subject line *The Pizzicato Effect* Lead Teaching Artist (Beginner Ensemble) application – YOUR NAME, to:

**Sylvia Hosking, Schools Program Manager**

Email: [hoskings@mso.com.au](mailto:hoskings@mso.com.au)

Select candidates will be invited to interview and play a short own choice work to demonstrate competency on their main instrument. Referees will be contacted following the interview process.

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### Contact

For further confidential conversation about this opportunity please contact during business hours:

**Sylvia Hosking**

**Schools Program Manager**

Telephone: 03 8646 1108

Email: [hoskings@mso.com.au](mailto:hoskings@mso.com.au)

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