



**City of Birmingham
Symphony Orchestra**

YOUTH AMBASSADOR

Application Deadline: **12 noon on Monday 24 June 2019**

Interviews: Informal interviews will be held on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday 10 July and Thursday 11 July 2019

ROLE OVERVIEW

The world-renowned City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is seeking 12 Youth Ambassadors aged 16 - 21, to participate in a one-year volunteer programme. This is a new programme launched to coincide with the CBSO's 100th Birthday in 2020. Youth Ambassadors will have the opportunity to work creatively, develop a reflective approach, build leadership skills, and develop proficiency in media, communications, advocacy and presenting.

The Youth Ambassadors will help the CBSO remain a relevant and vibrant organisation, and will provide their feedback on, and insight into, our work; support the promotion of our performances and youth ensembles amongst their peers; and programme and present their own concert with the full orchestra in Symphony Hall. In addition, the CBSO will be able to provide access to some of the conductors, soloists and presenters working with the orchestra throughout the year - including our Music Director Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla and violinist Nicola Benedetti - as well as opportunities for work experience and shadowing of CBSO staff, enabling a thorough and in depth understanding of the workings of a professional orchestra.

The Youth Ambassador role begins in September 2019, and concludes in July 2020. All activity will take place at the CBSO Centre or Symphony Hall, both in central Birmingham, both fully accessible venues.

To find out more about the CBSO, and the wide variety of concerts, educational and choral activities we deliver every year please visit our website at cbsoco.uk.

HOW TO APPLY

To be selected as a Youth Ambassador you will need to apply for the position by sending us an email or letter outlining why you think you would make a good Ambassador for the CBSO, how you meet our person specification, what you feel you could bring to this role, and what you would like to achieve throughout the year.

We would also like to ask you to provide us with a CV, which outlines any work experience, relevant interests, and/or volunteering experience that you may have had to date. We have provided a CV template at the end of this pack to help you if you haven't had to provide a CV before.

If you are aged 16 - 18 and still at school we also require a letter from a parent/guardian which confirms that they support your application. This letter must be signed and dated. If we do not receive this letter at the same time as your application then we will be unable to consider you for a Youth Ambassador Role.

Please send your letter of application, CV, (and letter of parental support if required) to Lauren Toney, Assistant Learning & Participation Manager, CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, B1 2LF / ltoney@cbsoco.uk

If you have any questions about this role, or the application process please contact Lauren Toney on ltoney@cbsoco.uk or on 0121 616 6509.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

From September 2019 to July 2020 Youth Ambassadors will:

- Participate in a series of workshops with musicians, conductors and presenters to programme and host a full length evening concert at Symphony Hall with the CBSO. This will be on **Thursday 9 January** and will be one of the first performances by the orchestra in our Centenary year
- Plan and deliver a post-concert talk with violinist Nicola Benedetti after her performance of Bartok's *Violin Concerto* on **Saturday 8 February**
- Attend a minimum of 8 CBSO concerts¹ in the 2019-20 season. Ambassadors can select which concerts to attend, and they will be required to provide feedback on different aspects of these performances to help inform the CBSO's ongoing development, and advise us as to how we can enable more young people to access our concerts
- In consultation with the CBSO's Learning & Participation team, identify up to 4 further concerts² to bring a group of peers and/or community members to, and capture their thoughts, feedback and experiences of these performances
- Help raise awareness of the breadth of work delivered by the CBSO amongst their peers and communities, including different types of concert and youth ensembles
- Have opportunities to attend CBSO rehearsals at Symphony Hall to experience how the orchestra, conductors and soloists prepare their performances
- Have opportunities to meet with, and shadow, members of the CBSO's conducting team, including Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Michael Seal, and Jaume Santonja Espinós, and our choral conductors Simon Halsey, Julian Wilkins and Ula Weber
- Maintain learning diaries throughout the process - this could be as a blog, vlog, a written diary or any other creative format, capturing the experience and helping to provide the CBSO with valuable feedback and reflection on the Youth Ambassador experience
- Share aspects of their experience with the wider CBSO membership and audience through interviews, articles, blogs, films etc. featured on the CBSO website, social media channels, publications and concert programmes
- Have opportunities to shadow staff from different departments within the CBSO across the year, including some work experience, providing a detailed insight into the varied careers available within the creative industries, and specifically orchestras
- Receive careers advice, CV workshops and one-to-one discussions about different career paths with members of the CBSO's administrative team and orchestra members
- Attend termly reflection and feedback meetings with members of the CBSO's Learning & Participation team to share experiences, learning and contribute to the ongoing development of the Youth Ambassador programme
- Present termly to members of the CBSO's Senior Management Team to share feedback, observations and ideas based on their experiences to date
- Give a presentation to the CBSO Board on their experience at the end of the programme

This programme represents a serious time commitment, and while there is flexibility in many aspects of the role (concert attendance, shadowing, work experience etc.) workshops to develop the 9 January 'takeover concert' will take place on fixed dates. These will occur during evenings and weekends, and we will issue a timetable in early July.

¹ Free tickets will be provided for Youth Ambassadors

² Ten free tickets will be provided for each of these performances

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are looking for applicants who bring a diversity of personal experiences, skill sets, and volunteering (or community involvement) to the team. You don't have to have experience in similar roles, be able to read music, play an instrument or sing - you just need to have an interest in music and be willing to rise to the challenge!

We are looking for young people who:

- Are curious, creative and keen to undertake new challenges
- Are willing to learn and take on new responsibilities
- Are committed and able to work collaboratively within a team
- Have good communication skills - written and verbal
- Have good time management skill and are reliable
- Are interested in making orchestral music more accessible and relevant to young people and new audiences
- Are able to work within a professional environment
- Are able to effectively engage with people of different ages, backgrounds and experiences
- Are from a diverse range of backgrounds and with differing life experiences