

# RULES AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

Assistant conductor contest – Season 2024-2025

## 1. Application requirements

Applications open on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 10 a.m (UTC+1)  
Deadline for registration is Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 6 p.m (UTC+1)

You can apply on *Ulysses* platform: <https://www.ulysses-network.eu/competitions/assistant-conductor-2425/>

**Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered. Only applications submitted via the Ulysses platform will be considered valid.**

### **The competition is open to applicants**

- of less than 35 years old on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2024;
- holding a higher education music diploma;
- experienced in conducting a professional orchestra, both in rehearsals and concerts.

### **When applying, the candidates will have to provide:**

- a copy of valid passport or other identity document;
- a CV (biographies are not accepted);
- a cover letter in French or English (recommendation letters will not be accepted);
- two videos showing the applicant conducting, scrupulously complying with the criteria below.

Entry in the competition implies full acceptance of the rules and employment conditions.

According to the level of the applicants, the jury can renounce to fill the assistant conductor position.

## 2. Video requirements

- The combined duration of the two videos must not exceed 10 minutes ;
- Videos must show works of different repertoire ;  
*NB: The videos must not show a general rehearsal and concert of the same programme*
- At least one of the two videos must be with a symphonic orchestra ;  
*NB: Videos conducting a choir without any instrumentist will not be accepted*
- Videos must have been recorded after 2020 ;
- Videos must be submitted via YouTube links (public or unlisted videos) ;
- The descriptions accompanying each video must indicate the candidate's last and first name, the date when the video was recorded, the orchestra's name, the work(s) performed, and the name(s) of the soloist(s) (if any) ;  
*NB: if the orchestra is not a formally constituted ensemble, please explain the circumstances of the concert or rehearsal*
- The viewing angle must face and clearly show the candidate;
- The videos must be subtitled if there are discussions between the conductor and the orchestra in a language other than French. Subtitles must also be provided if the candidate makes inaudible comments in either French or English.

**Applicants whose videos do not comply with the aforementioned requirements will not be eligible for pre-selection.**

### Recommendations:

- Choose videos that focus on you within the first fifteen seconds ;
- The videos should start with a sequence you believe represents well your conducting ;
- Eliminate applause, the orchestra tuning up, greetings, etc. from the videos ;
- An audio quality of the excerpts, making possible to hear both the different orchestra sections, as well as the conductor's comments, will be appreciated ;
- It is not mandatory to make two videos of 5 minutes each. You can choose to submit a longer concert video (of 7 minutes for instance) and a shorter rehearsal video (of 3 minutes). The combined duration of the two videos must not exceed 10 minutes.

### 3. Selection of finalists

A maximum of five candidates will be selected on application file in order to participate to the audition.

Results of the preselection will be announced by email on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the latest.

### 4. Description of the rounds

The audition of the five selected candidates selected will take place on **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024** at the Orchestra House (19, rue des Écoles – 94140 Alfortville - France).

The audition will take place as follows:

- First round in the morning  
**Ludwig van Beethoven – *Symphony n°4*, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> movement** (Bärenreiter editions)
- Second round in the afternoon  
**Anton Dvorák – *Symphony n°9*, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> movement** (Kalmus editions)

The running order for all candidates will be randomly drawn.

For each round, the jury will determine the excerpt (1st or 2nd movement) beforehand.

In the first round, each candidate's performance time will be limited to 20 minutes, including a run-through of the excerpt from the work, and time to work with the Orchestra to refine their interpretation and resolve any problems of intonation or placement.

A maximum of three candidates will be selected to take part in the second round. All rounds are eliminatory. The jury's decisions are final.

In the second round, each candidate's performance time will be limited to 30 minutes, including time for rehearsing the excerpt and working with the Orchestra. A 10-minute motivational interview between the candidates and the members of the jury will take place at the end of the final round with Orchestra.

Whatever the round in progress, the jury retains the right to interrupt the candidate. On the

contrary, if it deems it useful, it may proceed with a new audition. At each stage of the competition, the jury retain the right to hear a candidate again.

## 5. Jury selection

The jury will be composed of the Musical Director (President of the jury) and six members of the administrative and artistic team of the Orchestra.

Musicians performing on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 will vote at the end of all rounds. The result of this collective vote will be counted as an eighth vote in the same way as the jury's votes, in favor of the candidate who obtains the most musician votes.

The candidates selected for the second round must have received at least 4 votes.

At the end of the final round, the candidate who receives five out of eight votes wins the competition. If a candidate obtains four votes, the president of the jury has the option of adding a deciding vote in order to reach a total of five votes.

## 6. Employment conditions and missions

The candidate winning the competition will be offered a position of assistant conductor, under a fixed-term contract ("contrat à durée déterminée dit d'usage"), for a period of ten months, from September 2024 until June 2024, in accordance with articles L.1242-2 and D.1242-1 of the French Labor Code, the Collective agreement for artistic and cultural enterprises, and the habits of the music business.

In the event of simultaneous employment, the candidate undertakes to give priority to the Orchestra as a regular employer.

The Assistant Conductor is present on all the Musical Director's series, recordings and tours, and on certain series conducted by guest conductors. He/she will conduct the Orchestra in certain rehearsals and performances during the season, and will play an active part in certain recordings and educational projects in conjunction with the Education and Culture Department.

**For further information, please contact:**

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