



Canberra  
Symphony  
Orchestra

# CSO Principal musician

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Position description &  
2021 audition requirements

# About the CSO

**The Canberra Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is dedicated to reaching and enriching a broad audience through artistically vibrant musical experiences.**

A professional part-time orchestra, the CSO is a creative hub in the nation's, underpinning a diverse range of artistic and community endeavours that serve Canberra and the wider region and enrich the national cultural landscape. The CSO connects musicians, composers and creative leaders from diverse backgrounds and provides vital pathways for the next generation of emerging talent.

Australian music occupies a central place in the CSO's artistic vision; the CSO has a nationally distinct and growing commitment to programming Australian works in mainstream concerts as well as its dedicated Australian music series.

## Jessica Cottis, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

A charismatic and erudite figure on the podium, conductor Jessica Cottis has received critical acclaim for her intellect, natural authority, and profound musicality. Named '2019 Classical "Face to Watch"' (*The Times*), she is much in demand, working regularly with leading orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Singapore Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Opera House, as well as numerous re-invitations to the prestigious BBC Proms.

A gifted communicator, Jessica works widely as an advocate for classical music. Described as a "cool, contained, super-articulate and engaging" (*The Scotsman*), she is a frequent contributor on BBC radio and television, commenting on a wide range of topics, from opera to architecture, synaesthesia, the environment and acoustics.

[jessicacottis.com](http://jessicacottis.com)

## Concert season

### Llewellyn Series

The CSO's flagship Llewellyn Series pairs iconic symphonic masterworks with compelling Australian compositions and features a range of guest artists. There are four concerts per season, performed on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Llewellyn Hall.

### Australian Series

The nationally unique Australian Series exclusively features Australian chamber works, with a commissioning focus. There are three concerts per season, performed on Thursday evenings at the National Museum of Australia.

### Chamber Classics

Introduced in 2021, the Chamber Classics Series celebrates well-loved chamber repertoire. The series will be expanded to four concerts in 2022, performed on Sunday afternoons at Albert Hall.

### CSO Summer Prom

The CSO's annual outdoor concert on the lawns of Government House, the Summer Prom is a fixture on Canberra's musical calendar and enjoyed by all ages.

## Community engagement

With the support of the ACT Government and Community Partners, CSO community engagement delivers positive outcomes for the region in health and wellbeing, education, innovation and social cohesion.

Curated by audiologist and CSO bassoonist Kristen Sutcliffe and supported by Better Hearing Australia (Canberra), the CSO's leading Rediscovering Music program helps people with hearing loss to reconnect with music, supporting rehabilitation through active listening practice.

The power of music for wellbeing also undergirds the Music and Memory program for people living with dementia, piloted in 2020 in partnership with Goodwin Aged Care Services and ActewAGL. The program balances individual music preferences with the social benefits of a shared concert experience, informed by a growing body of research.

In 2021, the CSO also delivered *Visualising Harmony* with Belco Arts, supported by ActewAGL and the Australian Government's RISE Fund. This unique project saw CSO musicians and artists with diverse abilities co-create and perform original music, facilitated by world-class violinist Belinda 'Bindi' McFarlane.

Beyond these programs, CSO musicians continue to promote health and wellbeing through regular performances in local hospitals and for Canberra sessions of the lauded *Painting with Parkinson's* initiative. Each year, CSO musicians also visit specialist schools and aged care homes, delighting audiences who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the joy of live classical music.

## Musical services

The CSO reaches thousands each year through musical services provided to a range of popular, family-friendly events across the region. These include Queanbeyan's award-winning *Music by the River*, presented by Icon Water with the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, and *Symphony in the Park* at Stage88, presented in conjunction with the ACT Government for Enlighten Festival.

The CSO has also supported a range of other arts organisations to deliver rich, thought-provoking cultural experiences. Notable 2021 collaborations include the debut production of Canberra's National Opera and the premiere of the large-scale, commemorative *Vietnam Requiem* with the Flowers of War.

Meanwhile, CSO musicians contribute to a range of avant-garde performances through the ongoing Cultural Partnership between the CSO and Molonglo, as well as the much-loved *Kids' Cushion Concert* school holiday series. The CSO also facilitates bespoke ensembles for weddings and other private functions.

# Position description

A CSO Principal musician is responsible for the overall performance standard of their section and for upholding professional standards at all times as an ambassador of the orchestra.

Key attributes include high level performance and communication skills and a dedication to the CSO and the wider arts ecosystem of the Canberra region. *Principals must be based in, or have a strong connection to, the Canberra region.*

Principals work collaboratively and report to the Concertmaster, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director (CCAD), guest conductors and the CSO management.

## Key functions and responsibilities

CSO Principals fulfil the following duties, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the CSO's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 2019–2021:

- Uphold and ensure a consistently high standard of performance across the relevant section.
- Demonstrate leadership and uphold exemplary professional standards at all times, including in rehearsal and performance preparation and conduct.
- Consult with the Concertmaster and CCAD on the distribution of parts in the section.
- Actively participate in rank-and-file auditions as a panel member.
- Perform in ensemble and chamber music activities and CSO community programs as required.
- Support CSO publicity and promotional activities and participate in events for partners and donors as an ambassador for the orchestra.

## Application requirements

To apply, email your CV (including email address, postal address and phone number) to Lindy Reksten via [lindy.reksten@csso.org.au](mailto:lindy.reksten@csso.org.au) by COB Thursday 7 October 2021.

Results will be notified by Thursday 14 October and successful applicants invited to participate in Audition Round 1. *Late or postal applications will not be accepted.*

# Audition requirements

## Audition Round 1 (audio-only)

For Audition Round 1, candidates will be required to present:

- **Flute**
  - W. A. MOZART Flute Concerto No. 2 in D major  
*First movement (exposition only) with cadenza and piano accompaniment*
  - Orchestral excerpts
- **Bassoon**
  - W. A. MOZART Bassoon Concerto in B-flat major  
*First movement to bar 97 and second movement to bar 20, both with piano accompaniment*
  - Orchestral excerpts
- **Timpani**
  - Orchestral excerpts only

Excerpts will be available for download from [cso.org.au/employment](https://cso.org.au/employment) from Friday 15 October 2021.

Candidates must submit their audio-only recording (no video) via Typeform by COB Thursday 11 November 2021. *The submission link will be supplied in advance.*

- Recordings will be adjudicated blind – **candidates are not to identify themselves.**
- Each component (concerto and excerpts) must be recorded in a single take – **no editing.**

Results will be notified by Friday 19 November 2021 and successful candidates invited to participate in Audition Round 2.

## Audition Round 2 (live / virtual)

For Audition Round 2, candidates will be required to present:

- **Flute**
  - BOZZA *Image for solo flute*
  - Orchestral excerpts
- **Bassoon**
  - J. S. BACH Cello Suite No. 5 BWV. 1011  
*Fourth movement – Sarabande and Sixth movement – Gigue*
  - Orchestral excerpts
- **Timpani**
  - Orchestral excerpts only

Excerpts will be available for download from [cso.org.au/employment](https://cso.org.au/employment) from Friday 15 October 2021.

Live auditions will take place between 1–10 December 2021 and **will include a panel interview.** Candidates unable to audition in person may submit a video recording by COB Tuesday 30 November 2021 and participate in a panel interview via Zoom, to be scheduled between 1–10 December 2021.

- For virtual auditions, each component (excerpts and set piece) must be recorded in a single take – **no editing.**

Results will be notified by Monday 20 December 2021.

## Other audition notes

- If you are unable to record with piano accompaniment, **contact the CSO in advance** to discuss.
- For Audition Round 2, **all applicants will be required to apply virtually (via video recording) in the event that COVID-19 restrictions preclude live auditions** in the ACT.

## Key dates and contacts

<b>7 October</b>	Applications close
<b>14 October</b>	Application results notified
<b>15 October</b>	Audition Round 1 and Audition Round 2 excerpts available on CSO website
<b>11 November</b>	Audition Round 1 recordings due (audio-only)
<b>19 November</b>	Audition Round 1 results notified
<b>30 November</b>	Audition Round 2 recordings due (audio and video)
<b>1–10 December</b>	Audition Round 2: live / virtual auditions (ACT COVID-19 restrictions permitting)
<b>20 December</b>	Audition Round 2 results notified

## Contact

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### **Michelle Zarb**

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