

Rehearsals and concerts

The orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 pm and presents three concerts a year: in May, August and November. There are usually around 12 rehearsals prior to each concert.

Expectations of players

Players should aim to prepare for and attend all rehearsals. This shows respect for the other players and optimises the orchestra's ensemble playing.

If a player needs to miss a rehearsal they are expected to send an apology to their section principal or a member of the Committee. If this absence could impact on running the rehearsal, the apology will be passed on to the Conductor.

If a player misses several rehearsals prior to a concert they may be asked not to perform in that concert. This decision would be made by the Committee following discussion with the player and in consultation with their section principal and the Conductor. Factors that would be considered include the number of rehearsals missed, their proximity to the concert, and the player's part.

Once a player ceases to be a member of the Canterbury Philharmonia, they will return any material provided by the orchestra (such as music folder, instrument or other equipment).

New players

Players applying for membership of the Canterbury Philharmonia will usually play with the orchestra for several rehearsals and one concert on trial. At the end of the trial period the Committee will make a decision about their membership, in consultation with their section principal and the Conductor.

Additional players (who are not members)

At times players who are not members will be invited to play with the orchestra in order to fill missing parts in particular pieces.

Appointment of section principals

Section principals are appointed by the Committee in consultation with the Conductor, and other members of the section where needed. The term of appointment is for three years. It is possible for section principals to serve more than one term.

Expectations of section principals

Section principals serve as the main liaison between players and the Conductor and Committee. Their role is primarily to provide leadership rather than musical talent. There is no expectation that principals would necessarily be the most suitable to play solos.

Section principals will liaise with the Conductor to determine who, within their section, will play each part and solo passages

Section principals are responsible for part allocations and seating positions within their sections, and bowing for strings. These decisions will often be made in consultation with the players in their sections, other section principals and/or the Conductor. There is an expectation that, where possible and reasonable, principals will ensure all parts are covered in rehearsals and concerts.

Section principals will keep track of player attendance within their section. If they believe that as a consequence of rehearsal absences, a player may not be sufficiently prepared to play in a concert, they will inform the Committee.

Section principals will welcome new players into their section, provide orientation to the orchestra, and after their rehearsal and concert trial period, give advice to the Committee on their membership application.