

LSSO RECRUITMENT 2027

Applications

- Applications are open and the deadline for applications is Wednesday 16 September 2026.
- Your application is our first moment to meet you. Please take the time to tell us who you are and what your musical life is. It is helpful to know about your musical experience and how you assess the level of your playing.
- Not all applicants are invited to audition – on some occasions we don't invite applicants to audition if we believe that they might not be ready for the full LSSO experience.

Key Dates

- Invitations to audition will be sent on Monday 21 September 2026.
- Auditions will be held between 24-29 October 2026.
 - A full list of audition dates by instrument will be published by 1 September
- Audition results will be shared on **Monday 2 November 2026**.

Auditions: Show Us Who You Are

Your LSSO participation begins with your audition in October Half Term, held at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

- **Celebration:** Auditions are your chance to meet the LSSO Staff and Tutor Team and showcase where you are in your musical development. Auditions are not a test, they are a celebration of your musical achievements.
- **Opportunity:** Auditions are your moment to tell us, and show us, who you would be in LSSO and what you would bring to the orchestra.
- **Momentum:** Invitations to the orchestra follow the auditions by just a few days so you won't have to wait long to get stuck into the music for the first course!

Auditions: Requirements and Preparation

Your audition will last for approximately 20 minutes and will include the elements below. You will be able to warm up in a private space for around 15 minutes before the audition.

Solo Works

Strings, Woodwind and Harps should prepare two contrasting solo works for the audition. The total amount of music should not be more than 7 minutes.

You should feel free to select a section from a solo work – you do not have to start at the beginning, or finish at the end – just find a suitable section that you feel the most comfortable with.

Auditions are held without a piano accompaniment. You can select pieces that would normally have a piano accompaniment – you do not need to find a truly solo work.

Orchestral Excerpts

Each candidate will be asked to prepare a selection of orchestral excerpts. These can be found on this page of the website.

Orchestral Excerpts are an important part of the audition process and help us assess how you will perform as part of a section.

Tips for preparing excerpts:

- Pay attention to any markings that indicate dynamics, phrasing and articulation. These details are what makes a successful performance.
- Rests are a key part of playing in orchestra. Practice counting through the rests and assume that you should include the rests in your performance.
- Try to listen to the pieces to get a feel for the pieces. On each excerpt document there are links to suggested recordings.

Audition Dates

Violins

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|----------------------------|---------------|------|
| • Saturday 24 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |
| • Sunday 25 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |
| • Monday 26 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |

Violas

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|--------------------------|---------------|------|
| • Monday 26 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |
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Cellos

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| • Tuesday 27 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |
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Double Bass

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| • Wednesday 28 October 2026 | 09:00 – 14:00 | GSMD |
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Woodwind

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| • Saturday 24 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |
| • Sunday 25 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |

Brass

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------|
| • Wednesday 28 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |
| • Thursday 29 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |

Harp

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|------|
| • Saturday 24 October 2026 | 09:00 – 19:00 | GSMD |
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Alternative Arrangements

We understand that prior school commitments may mean that you are unable to attend one of the audition dates listed above.

If this is the case, please contact us at lso@gsmd.ac.uk and let us know your situation and availability. We will then be able to share details of alternate arrangements which may include auditioning on different dates, or submitting a video audition.