



GARSINGTON OPERA
AT WORMSLEY



Chaperone



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About Garsington Opera

Located in the stunning Chiltern hills on the Wormsley estate, Garsington Opera is a prestigious summer festival with a fast-growing international reputation. With performances in June and July we produce four productions each year, in partnership with our two resident orchestras The English Concert and the Philharmonia. We have recently opened Garsington Studios, which provides state of the art rehearsal spaces, production workshops, café, offices and a home for our acclaimed community programme and world-class Emerging Artists scheme. This is an exciting time to join an innovative and growing company.

GO Mission

- To enrich the lives of our audiences and participants by producing operas which are theatrically compelling and of exceptional musical standard.
- To encourage and expand knowledge and appreciation of opera through performance and exciting life-long participatory projects with a dynamic, inclusive, outreach programme in the community, for all ages and abilities from diverse backgrounds.
- To discover, encourage and nurture the best young performing talent, particularly from the UK, providing an outstanding programme of development for young professional singers.
- To broaden our audience through appropriate use of digital media.
- To grow our national and international reputation.

The Role

Garsington Opera is seeking to expand its pool of dedicated and reliable Chaperones to support both its Main Stage Summer Festival and its GO Participate programmes. Garsington Opera is committed to safeguarding the safety, security and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care. We welcome expressions of interest from individuals who may not hold a formal chaperone licence but have strong, demonstrable experience working with children and young people in professional, educational, or community settings.

Our Chaperones play a vital role in safeguarding the safety, wellbeing, and positive experience of the young people involved in our productions and participation work. We are looking for committed, attentive, and organised individuals who can work collaboratively within a busy artistic environment and uphold the highest standards of care.

If you are passionate about supporting young performers and would like to be part of a vibrant creative team, we would be delighted to hear from you.





Job Specification

Post: Chaperone

Reporting to: Head Chaperone, who reports to Director of Artistic Administration and Head of Learning and Participation

Salary: £55 minimum call time up to 3 hours / £82.50 up to 5 hours / £110.00 up to 8 hours

Employment Status: Freelance. Please note this is not a full time position and the work is ad hoc as the company requires.

Application deadline: 10am on Monday 12 January 2026

Interview date: Wednesday 21 and Friday 23 January 2026 at Garsington Studios

Location: The majority of Garsington Opera work takes place at: Garsington Studios, Wallace Hill Farm, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3YF and Garsington Opera, Wormsley Estate, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3YF

This job description outlines the principal responsibilities and duties of the post holder. It is not meant to be, nor is it, an exhaustive list of specific responsibilities and duties. The post holder will be expected to undertake any other duties which could reasonably be expected as being within the remit of the post and which arise out of changes in legislation, regulations, orders, rules and working practices, methods and procedures and reviews, as directed from time to time.

Garsington Opera is committed to providing and supporting an inclusive environment that promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion. We are aware how a diverse team enriches our culture, where all can reach their full potential and flourish whatever their background. We encourage applications from all suitably qualified persons, regardless of background, race, sex, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief or age.



Key Duties and Responsibilities

Main Responsibilities

- Your first responsibility is to the children in your care, and you should:
- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children at all times.
- Ensure children have or are provided with refreshments and meals during rehearsal and performance breaks as required.
- Ensure children receive adequate rest periods, breaks, and appropriate recreation when not needed on stage or in rehearsal.
- Use sound judgement to identify when a child is unwell, overtired, or unable to concentrate, and take appropriate action, including reporting concerns to the relevant safeguarding lead.

Chaperoning Skills and Expectations

- Act in loco parentis, providing the level of care, supervision, and responsibility that a reasonable parent or guardian would give.
- Support children working in an adult production environment, ensuring they understand expectations and instructions, taking into account:
 - Their age and experience
 - Their exposure to adult conversation
 - Their concentration span
 - Their susceptibility to expectations and peer pressure
- Ensure children understand all relevant Health & Safety rules during rehearsals and performances, including awareness of potential backstage and onstage hazards.
- Appropriately occupy or engage children during their non-performance time, recognising that concentration spans vary significantly by age.



- Remain vigilant for all forms of bullying—including subtle or indirect behaviours—and intervene and report concerns immediately.
- Promote a positive and enjoyable experience for every child, maintaining strong communication and effective negotiation with performers, creative teams, stage management, and parents/carers.

Professional Standards

- Maintain accurate attendance and sign-in/sign-out records, ensuring the whereabouts of each child is known at all times.
- Assist with practical needs such as organisation of personal items, costume support, and preparing young performers for scenes, cues, and transitions.
- Communicate clearly with production teams to ensure smooth coordination throughout rehearsals and performances.
- Maintain confidentiality and professionalism when dealing with sensitive information.
- Comply with all child performance licensing regulations, safeguarding policies, and organisational procedures.

Training Requirements

- Prior to commencing work as a Chaperone at Garsington Opera, the company will provide you with chaperone and safeguarding training.
- The role is subject to a clear enhanced DBS certification



Skills Required

The ideal Chaperone candidate is a responsible, organised, and compassionate individual with a genuine passion for supporting children and young people in the performing arts. They will have strong communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to remain calm under pressure, and a confident approach to managing groups in a busy production environment. Experience working with young people in theatre, education, or youth-focused settings is highly desirable. They should demonstrate excellent safeguarding awareness, professionalism, reliability, and a positive, supportive attitude that helps young performers feel safe, encouraged, and ready to shine on stage. Training will be provided for those successful candidates you do not require a chaperone licence in advance of applying.

Essential

- Experience of working with young people
- Effective communicator with the ability to liaise with both young people and adults in a professional capacity
- Collaborative team player who enjoys working with others
- Willingness to work flexibly, including evenings and weekends
- Works well under pressure and able to problem solve
- Good communication and interpersonal skills

Desirable

- Knowledge of working within a producing theatre.
- Full clean driving licence
- Previous experience of working as a chaperone.
- First Aid Trained



How to Apply

The closing date for applications is 10am on Monday 12 January and should be submitted via email to **admin@garsingtonopera.org**

Applications should include a completed Application Form and a CV. Candidates will be asked to submit copies of any relevant qualifications if invited to interview.

CVs should include:

- details of relevant achievements and experience as well as educational and professional qualifications
- contact details including day and evening telephone/mobile numbers

Candidates also have the option to complete the Garsington Opera Equal Opportunities Form and submit with their application.

Successful applicants will be contacted and invited for interview. Interviews will take place week commencing Wednesday 21 and Friday 23 January 2026



Garsington Opera

Garsington Studios, Wallace Hill Farm
Stokenchurch, HP14 3YF

01494 376037

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www.garsingtonopera.org