



GARSINGTON OPERA
AT WORMSLEY

Trainee Assistant Conductor



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About Garsington Opera

Located in the stunning Chiltern hills on the Getty family estate near High Wycombe, 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 completed the building of our own permanent space to provide state of the art rehearsal studios, production workshops, café, offices and a home for our acclaimed community programme and world-class Emerging Artists' Programme.

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.



About the Role

As part of its talent development 'Pathways Programme', Garsington Opera is looking to recruit a **Trainee Assistant Conductor** to work alongside Conductor Alexander Joel, Head of Music and Assistant Conductor Jonathon Cole-Swinard, and Repetiteur Fran Hills to form part of the Music Staff for its 2027 production of Verdi's *Falstaff* (Director Bruno Ravella, Designer Giles Cadle).

This is an entry level role, supporting the transition from conservatoire conducting training (or equivalent) to becoming an assistant conductor for a professional opera company. Through this process, the successful candidate should gain the experience and confidence to be ready to work professionally as a member of music staff.



Job Specification

Post: Trainee Assistant Conductor

Fee: £500.00 a week fee

£145.00 approx. a week towards travel (equivalent to a Weekly Zone 1 - 6 Travel Card + Travel to High Wycombe) Garsington Opera provides a free, regular bus from High Wycombe to Garsington Studios and Opera Pavilion.

Period: 17 May - 13 July 2027

Application Deadline: 11.59pm on Sunday 25 October 2026

Interview Date: Successful candidates will be invited to an audition with Garsington's Artistic Director, Douglas Boyd, and Head of Music, Jonathon Cole-Swinard, on Wednesday 25 November in central London.

The successful candidate will also receive £500.00 to spend on professional development, to be agreed with Head of Music and Director of Artistic Administration. This can be spent on, but not limited to, tickets and travel to see performances, building a website, suitable courses, mentoring and/or coaching.

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 Tasks and Responsibilities

The Trainee Assistant Conductor will form part of the Music Staff team and would act as a 2nd Assistant Conductor on the production of *Falstaff* supporting Alexander Joel and Jonathon Cole-Swinard in the preparation and rehearsal of both principal and cover casts and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Garsington will endeavour to provide the successful candidate with the following experience whilst on the programme:

- conducting studio piano rehearsals with principals and cover cast as required (usually with the supervision of the conductor or Head of Music)
- support the Head of Music in the preparation of the cover cast which may include vocal coaching as piano skills and interest allows
- conducting excerpts from the opera during the Alvarez Emerging Artists' London Showcase
- the opportunity to observe stage rehearsals for all Garsington productions in the 2027 Season as availability allows
- two Dress Rehearsal tickets for all Garsington productions in the 2027 Season.
- mentoring sessions with Garsington Opera's Head of Music, Jonathon Cole-Swinard
- conducting session(s) with Garsington Opera's Artistic Director and another conductor in the season
- depending on the bespoke programme put together for the successful candidate, there may also be the opportunity to: conduct or observe off-stage music and conduct or observe chorus music rehearsals.



How to Apply

The closing date for applications is 11.59pm on Sunday 25 October 2026.

Applicants should send a CV as well as a cover letter to

admin@garsingtonopera.org

Cover letters should be no longer than one page and include:

- why you would be interested in the opportunity and your career aspirations
- a link to two recordings of you conducting any size instrumental or vocal ensemble (or a piano accompanied rehearsal), at least one of which would ideally include singers
- details of two references.

As part of the application process, we invite you to complete our optional Equal Opportunities Form, which you can access via the link on our jobs page.

We are unable to accept applications from Artists who are not already based in the UK.

We are unable to provide feedback to those not invited to interview/audition.

Live Auditions

Successful applicants will be invited to an **interview and live audition** in London on Wednesday 25 November. During the live audition, applicants will be required to:

- conduct the Speaker Scene from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* whilst singing in the vocal lines (in English or German); the relevant score and translation will be provided
- coach and conduct Ford's aria 'È sogno o realtà' from Act 2, Scene 1 of Verdi's *Falstaff*, with a singer.



Garsington Opera
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