



## **Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra: PLAYER POLICY**

### **1. A POINT OF DEPARTURE**

The opportunity to create a fine professional orchestra in Suffolk arose from the coming together of a number of circumstances: the availability of some seedcorn funding; the opening of a new venue in Bury St Edmunds; and a chance conversation between Leslie Olive (conductor) and Julian Milone (Leader) while working together in Surrey, in which Julian expressed his enthusiasm to be a part of such an orchestra and his assertion that a number of other players of international calibre would also be keen.

This provided a platform to launch the Suffolk Philharmonic at a standard of excellence, focusing, initially, on the creation of an outstanding string orchestra, and developing quickly thereafter into a full symphony orchestra.

An outstanding level of excellence and professionalism among its players was a defining characteristic of the Suffolk Philharmonic from day one, and this standard has been further enhanced as the orchestra has begun to develop over the past four years.

### **2. A DESTINATION**

The launch ambitions of the SPO included the intention to:

- Encourage the take-up of instrumental playing among young people, supporting the work of longer-established organisations.
- Encourage capable young adult musicians who live in or near Suffolk to stay in the area (by providing opportunities for professional work with the Orchestra.
- Act as a magnet to other fine players, drawing them towards the possibility of living in Suffolk.

### **3. STEPS ON THE A JOURNEY – Suffolk by name, Suffolk by nature**

An orchestra with Suffolk in its name should comprise, wherever possible, Suffolk people in its ranks. Therefore, subject always to the required level of experience and standard of playing, it should prefer to offer its opportunities to players who:

- (a) live in Suffolk, or
- (b) live near the borders of Suffolk, or
- (c) have Suffolk links (such as having grown up or been to school in Suffolk), or
- (d) have other professional playing work which brings them into contact with Suffolk audiences.

Achieving this requires a gradual transition from the “launch scenario,” in which players are predominantly members of the major London orchestras or their “Extra” lists, with where they live being only a secondary consideration.

In the formative stage, while the concert programme was in its infancy and especially vulnerable to short-term funding decisions made elsewhere, the identification of suitable players who have Suffolk connections was initiated by means of an unstructured process of word-of-mouth recommendations.

The board is currently (2016) putting in place the offer of a more formal process of accreditation or auditions whose outcomes follow the Suffolk priorities set out above, subject always and supremely to the requirement for artistic and technical excellence.

**Applying for work with the Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra**

Players who wish to be considered to play with the Orchestra should make themselves known to Leslie Olive by emailing him at [leslie.olive@suffolkphil.org](mailto:leslie.olive@suffolkphil.org) They will be expected either:

- a. To show (by means of a CV) current or very recent experience of playing with a recognised professional orchestra of international standing; or
- b. To offer themselves for audition. In the case of string players, the audition will be with the Leader, Julian Milone. In the case of non-string players, an audition will be arranged with a Principal from a major orchestra.

*Reviewed and revised 1 February 2016*