

OPERA
HOLLAND
PARK

Freelance Inspire Assistant

JOB APPLICATION PACK 2026



ABOUT OPERA HOLLAND PARK

With a year-round commitment to excellence in opera, centred on an extraordinary three-month summer festival, Opera Holland Park is a breath of fresh air in the heart of London. Every summer our theatre is built on the terrace of the Grade I listed Holland House to accommodate an audience of over 900 from across the capital and beyond. Surrounded by the beautiful formal gardens and renowned Kyoto Garden of Holland Park, our theatre is a unique venue in which to enjoy critically acclaimed opera, welcoming over 40,000 visitors each summer for soon to be 30 years.

From peacocks walking around the lawns to innovative design and sublime drinks, the ambience at our theatre is stylish, creative and vibrant. As a summer festival based in London, we offer both the natural beauty and sense of escapism associated with country house opera festivals, and the metropolitan atmosphere and ease of access associated with London-based houses.

Outreach and education within the local community and beyond remains a core mission of the company, epitomised by our International Opera Award-winning programme Inspire. As an independent charity, we serve the local community in care homes, hospices, shelters, schools and elsewhere throughout the calendar year, taking live music to those who might otherwise be unable to experience it.

We take the business of identifying and supporting emerging talent very seriously.Our Young Artists Scheme has nurtured more than 100 emerging singers, directors, conductors and répétiteurs since 2012. We're delighted when their careers take flight, and even more delighted when they return to us in senior roles. 3 conductors and 1 director in the 2026 Season were alumni of the scheme. And wherever we see talent, be it on stage, backstage or behind a bar, we encourage career development.

Opera Holland Park is renowned for programming diverse and exciting repertoire from the traditional to the innovative. Many of the singers who perform with us enjoy international careers in other great opera houses of the world. Regularly covered by The Times, Telegraph and Financial Times, and featured on BBC Radio 3 and 4, we have a singular voice in the arts world.

Our reputation for dazzling work, discovery of talent, and inventive communication via film and other media gives us an identity that has made us among the most respected companies in the UK.

OUR MISSION & VALUES

Our mission is to share the cultural, wellbeing and social benefits of opera with our local community in Kensington & Chelsea and beyond.

We do this by:

- Staging affordable and accessible, high-quality opera productions at our open air theatre in the centre of Holland Park
- Working with our family of freelance performers and creatives to bring opera to those for whom traditional theatre productions are inaccessible
- Providing opportunities for emerging talent in the opera industry to develop their skills and gain experience in a supportive environment
- Using our platform as a respected arts organisation to dispel stereotypes and spread the message that opera is for everyone

As a company and a community, we work together to make sure everything we do embodies our values:

- **Creativity** – Whether we're producing our summer opera festival, building our theatre in the heart of Holland Park, or looking for ways to make opera accessible to new audiences, creativity is central to our work.
- **Community** – Opera Holland Park is not just a company but a community, made up of all the people who support us, work with us, see our shows and take part in our events and workshops. Through our outreach and education work, we aim to welcome as many people as possible from the local community into the Opera Holland Park family.
- **Integrity** – We are a company with integrity. Every one of us believes wholeheartedly in the importance of each project we work on. When it comes to our productions, we strive to get to the heart of the stories that make opera such a compelling artform
- **Respect** – As a company and a community, our respect for one another defines how we work together in the rehearsal room, offices, backstage and beyond. It also defines our relationship with the historic site where our theatre is based, and our approach to the environment and sustainability.
- **Passion** - What unites us as a community is our passion for opera, for the cultural, wellbeing and social benefits classical music can offer, and for showing that this profoundly human, 420-year-old artform is for everyone and is still relevant today.

ABOUT THE ROLE
Freelance Inspire Assistant

An exciting opportunity has arisen to support Opera Holland Park's Inspire programme. This role will assist across the Inspire programme including working on projects within Youth & Education, Music for Wellbeing/Creative Health and Community. This would particularly suit someone in their early career or changing career and looking to gain experience within Community Engagement/Learning & Participation.

Responsibilities will include:

- Assisting with administration and organisation across all areas of the programme including Youth & Education, Music for Wellbeing and Community, with a particular focus on Youth & Education
- Acting as Assistant Company Manager for the Youth Chorus
- Supporting the delivery of workshops and interactive sessions
- Contributing towards evaluation and monitoring processes, including evidence gathering
- Assisting with management of the budget including processing invoices
- Assisting and representing the programme at in-person events
- Liaising with artists, creatives and partners
- Any other administrative tasks within the community programme

The role will be mainly based at our offices in Kensington. During May and June, there will be some travel required to schools and community venues across London and at the Opera Holland Park theatre. The cost of required travel within projects will be covered or reimbursed.
Applicants must be available and able to commit until the end of June.

Suitable applicants should:

- Be a confident communicator including possessing excellent written and oral communication skills
- Have an interest in or experience working with people from a range of backgrounds and ages
- Be able to be flexible and think on their feet
- Have a warm, empathetic nature

- Have a genuine interest in community and education work
- Have an Enhanced DBS certificate (or be willing and able apply for one through OHP)
- Have the right to work in the UK and be registered as self-employed or able and willing to register. **Unfortunately we are unable to sponsor visas.**

The following attributes would be an advantage:

- Previous experience in administration or project management (ideally within a performing arts, cultural or community setting) – this could be gained through previous roles, roles during training/studying or voluntary experience
- Experience or understanding of evaluation and reporting
- Experience or interest in opera and/or classical music
- Ability to read music
- Budget management experience
- Experience or understanding of safeguarding and health and safety best practice
- Previous experience working with artists or creatives

We understand skills and experience can be gained in many ways and so we encourage all applicants interested to apply, even if they may not demonstrate every criteria.

Job Title: Freelance Inspire Assistant

Contract type: Contract type: freelance, late January – end of June, with the potential of extension

Location: Opera Holland Park office and theatre

Hours: One day a week (7.5 hours per day) with the scope to increase to up to 3 days a week during May and June.

Pay: £150 per day *(This is a freelance position, as such applicants must be registered as self-employed and are responsible for their own declarations and payments to HMRC.)*

Reporting to: Head of Community Engagement

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, either:

1. Send a CV and a short supporting statement outlining why you are interested in the position and how you meet the criteria (max 2 pages) OR
2. Send a CV and a video or audio file (max. 3 minutes) outlining why you are interested in the position and how you meet the criteria

If you require any reasonable adjustments to this application process, please email us on the address below.

Applications should be sent to inspire@operahollandpark.com by **4th January 9am**. We expect to hold interviews for shortlisted candidates week of **11th January.**

Ideal start date: end of January/early February.

This role involves regulated activity with children and is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced DBS check, including a check of the Children's Barred List. It is an offence to apply for this role if you are barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Equal Opportunities Opera is for everyone. We commit to creating opera for all people, and working with all people to create opera. We believe it is essential to nurture new and diverse talent, onstage and off. The more diverse our workforce, the stronger our community and the better able we are to achieve these aims. We are particularly keen to receive applications from people of a variety of ethnic backgrounds, people with disabilities and people who identify as members of the LGBT+ community, as these groups are currently under-represented at Opera Holland Park.

Access We are committed to making our recruitment process as accessible as possible. As part of this, we will:

- Provide detailed access information for all roles to the best of our knowledge at the time of recruitment
- Provide our Recruitment Pack and Application Form in a variety of formats, including large print Accept applications in written, video, and audio format
- Commit to offering interviews to all candidates who self-identify as disabled and meet the essential criteria

Contact us if you have any questions about this role or our recruitment process, or if you wish to discuss any adjustments to make our recruitment process or workplace accessible to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at info@operahollandpark.com.

We will be very happy to hear from you.

Thank you for your interest in Opera Holland Park.

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