



Guest Conductor Opportunity

2026 Program

The Albury Wodonga Symphony Orchestra (AWSO) is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from conductors interested in joining us as Guest Conductor for our middle concert in the 2026 season (August/September 2026).

AWSO is a community-based orchestra dedicated to providing local musicians the opportunity to perform a diverse repertoire, and to share high-quality orchestral music with audiences across the Albury-Wodonga region. You can learn more about us at awsosymphony.org.au.

There will be one (1) guest conductor opportunity in 2026.

We invite EOIs from conductors with experience and passion for working with community ensembles.

Key Information

Concert date: August/September 2026 (exact date TBC).

Rehearsal period: AWSO rehearses weekly on Thursday evenings in Albury. Rehearsals for concert 2 would commence toward the end of May. An intensive rehearsal and/or tutorials may be scheduled closer to the concert. We are open to different approaches to the guest conductor's involvement, under the guidance of our Artistic Director. This could include working with the orchestra weekly in the lead-up to the concert, joining for an intensive rehearsal weekend once the orchestra has been prepared, or a combination of both (e.g. attending the first rehearsal and returning for an intensive period closer to the concert).

Payment: an honorarium of \$500 will be provided, covering all activities associated with this program.

In addition, AWSO may consider allocating further funds to support special artistic proposals or innovative project elements put forward as part of the EOI process.

Programming: AWSO is a community orchestra; proposed programs should reflect achievable but exciting repertoire for an ensemble of this nature. AWSO is open to proposals that explore collaboration across art forms (e.g. combining music with voice, dance, theatre, or other creative disciplines). We welcome ideas that enhance the concert experience and engage new audiences. Please note, however, that large-scale projects may be limited by budget and our capacity to secure additional funding.

About the Orchestra

AWSO is a community ensemble with players of mixed experience and ability. Most of our members are at approximately AMEB Grade 5 standard or above. We are also fortunate to have a number of experienced semi-professional musicians scattered throughout the orchestra who provide leadership within sections.

The orchestra is large, with balance sometimes tricky to program for, due to the large number of winds and brass. Our typical instrumentation is approximately:

- Violin 1 (4), Violin 2 (4), Viola (4), Cello (7), Double Bass (1–2)
- Flute (5 including piccolo), Oboe (2), Clarinet (3), Bassoon (3)
- French Horn (5), Trumpet (2), Trombone (3), Tuba (1)
- Percussion (3)

We encourage repertoire proposals that are both challenging and rewarding, but also realistic for a community ensemble with this balance of players.

Expressions of Interest Criteria

Applicants are asked to address the following:

1. About You

- Your background, conducting experience, and any relevant qualifications, including previous involvement with orchestras, ensembles, or other music organisations.

2. Proposed Program and Budget

- Your suggested repertoire for the August/September 2026 concert (a middle-season program).
- Please outline how this program would suit a community orchestra such as AWSO, including any considerations of balance, skill level, or rehearsal demands.
- Please include any budgeting considerations you think this program will require (e.g. music hire, instrument hire, specific venue, AV requirements etc)

3. Referee

- Please provide the name and contact details of two professional referees who can speak to your experience as a conductor and/or collaborator.

Please submit your EOI to alburywodongasymphonyorchestra@gmail.com by 31 October 2025.

Your EOI should be no longer than 3 pages and should directly address the criteria above. Supporting materials (such as programs you have conducted or recordings, if available) are welcome.

Selection Process

The AWSO Committee and Artistic Director will review all EOIs against the criteria and Shortlisted applicants may be contacted for further discussion about their program, if required.

We anticipate the successful guest conductor will be confirmed by 30 November 2025.