

NCH

NATIONAL
CONCERT
HALL \ AN
CEOLÁRAS
NÁISIÚNTA

HEAD OF ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS



Perrett
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AMERICAS ASIA PACIFIC EMEA



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THE NATIONAL CONCERT HALL

The National Concert Hall (NCH) is Ireland's national cultural institution for music, proudly serving the Irish public since it opened in 1981 through live music performances, significant educational and cultural programmes. Based in the heart of Dublin's city centre, next door to the picturesque Iveagh Gardens, the NCH is proud home to our National Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, as well as providing residence for a range of other music organisations including Chamber Choir Ireland, Irish Baroque Orchestra, Music Network, Crash Ensemble and Music Generation. We host in excess of 1,000 events each year providing world-class music and entertainment for all ages, enriching people's lives through music and the magic of live performance.

The NCH has a vision to be an inspiring and world-renowned music destination, accessible to all, enriching the cultural landscape of Ireland. We aim to be one of the world's great centres for music, a centre which will be a symbol of national pride for Irish people everywhere and to deliver on our statutory remit for music, the arts, for culture and for our nation.



NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS

The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO), a major keystone of Ireland's cultural and musical heritage, is in an exciting phase of growth, development, and change. Formerly the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, it was founded in 1948 as the Raidió Éireann Symphony Orchestra. In 2022, the Orchestra transferred from RTÉ and is now under the remit of the National Concert Hall.

The NSO is a leading force in Irish musical life through year-long programmes of live music – ranging from symphonic, choral, and operatic to music from stage and screen, popular and traditional music. The Orchestra is proud to champion and support Irish music as a cornerstone of its repertoire and through new commissions. The NSO's innovative educational projects and development schemes for young musicians have also further expanded since the transfer to the NCH. The move has enabled the Orchestra to work with the NCH Learning and Participation team in delivering education projects, family concerts and community work.

The National Symphony Chorus (formerly RTÉ Philharmonic Choir) was formed in January 1985 by RTÉ's choral director Colin Mawby and has gone from strength to strength, firmly establishing itself as Ireland's leading symphonic choral ensemble with a highly impressive repertoire. Following the transfer from RTÉ in January 2022, the Chorus, directed by David Young, forms part of the National Concert Hall's family of choirs, with Cór Linn youth choir and Cór na nÓg children's choir. The Chorus prepares, performs and broadcasts at least six large-scale orchestral choral works each season alongside the NSO and internationally acclaimed conductors and soloists, with recordings and stand-alone concerts.

Our Vision

To be an inspiring world-renowned music organisation, accessible to all, enriching people's lives and the cultural landscape of Ireland.

Our Purpose

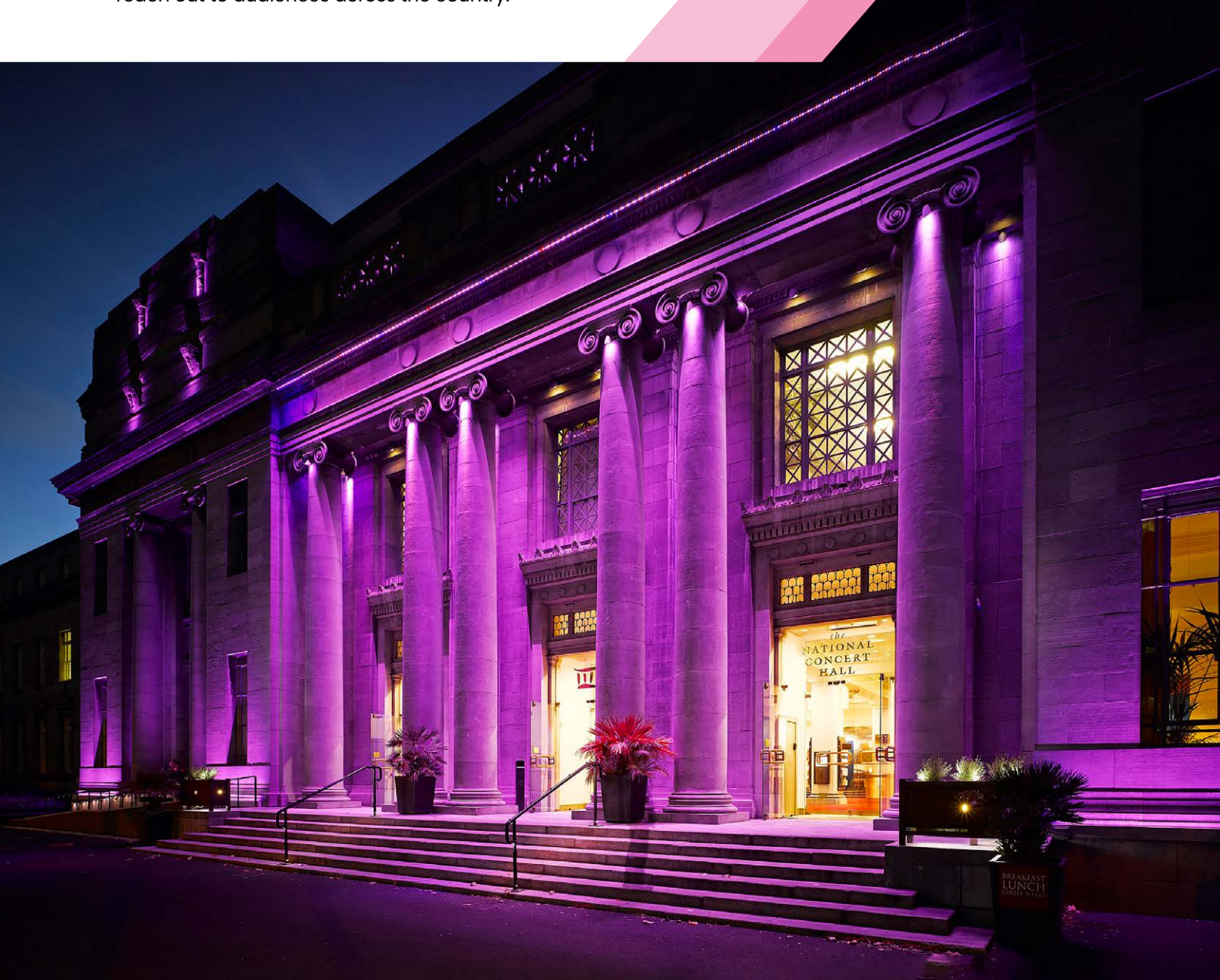
To be a living space for music, for lifelong enjoyment, connection, and participation for everyone.

Mission

We champion musical excellence, presenting the best national and international music. We are the home of the National Symphony Orchestra and classical music in Ireland. We foster diversity and inclusion, develop new work and ways of presenting, promote lifelong learning and engagement, and reach out to audiences across the country.

Our Values

- Excellence
- Collaboration
- Respect
- Integrity
- Diversity





OUR FUTURE

The NCH is currently planning for a major redevelopment of all facilities as part of the National Development Plan and Project Ireland 2040. We have secured the support and funding from the Government of Ireland for the restoration and redevelopment of the Earlsfort Terrace site, the largest redevelopment project ever in a National Cultural Institution in Ireland. Within the plans is the creation of a dedicated, state of the art, space for the National Symphony Orchestra.

This will include a rehearsal space, practice rooms, changing facilities, physio and well-being spaces, catering and green rooms. Work is likely to start onsite in 2026 and last three years. During this time, the Orchestra and Chorus will operate from an alternative Dublin base and focus on presenting concerts in various venues across the country.



THE ROLE

The National Concert Hall is seeking to appoint a passionate and creative individual as Head of Orchestra and Chorus (HOC) to lead the National Symphony Orchestra and Chorus through a period of exciting transformation and development. This newly restructured strategic role will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer and will be a key member of the NCH Senior Management Team ensuring effective and efficient partnership between the Orchestra, Chorus and NCH. The HOC is responsible for the artistic vision, business and financial management of the Orchestra and Chorus. They will lead the Orchestra of c. 80 full-time professional musicians as well as the administrative team and be responsible for a budget c. €8m. The HOC will lead the strategic development of the Orchestra and Chorus, engaging with key stakeholders to develop a highly effective and fulfilling culture to grow their local, national, and international profile of the National Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

Key Responsibilities

The successful appointee will be expected to:

- Implement, build and maintain a high-performing creative culture in the Orchestra and Chorus aligned with the NCH vision and strategy;
- Work in collaboration with the NCH Senior Management Team to deliver a cohesive artistic vision for the annual programme of music and Learning and Participation activities;
- Contribute to the implementation of the organisational strategy and annual business plan as a member of the Senior Management Team;
- Provide strategic, operational and artistic leadership across all activities of the National Symphony Orchestra and Chorus;
- Lead the development and implementation of a focused Orchestra and Chorus strategy integrated with the overall NCH strategy;

THE ROLE

- Maintain excellent communication and ensure a good working relationship with the Union and Artistic groups;
- Oversee and monitor the responsibilities and performance of the Orchestra, Chorus and Orchestra Management Team, providing guidance and motivation to the team;
- Ensure that the finest musicians are recruited and retained;
- Maintain budgetary oversight including revenues, staff costs, programming costs and capital spend, ensuring robust financial management and long-term sustainable financial planning;
- Devise and co-ordinate the medium to long term programme of work for the Orchestra and Chorus, together with the Head of Programme Planning;
- Develop new and enhance existing relationships with key external stakeholders including colleagues across RTÉ, the Arts Council of Ireland, music educational institutions, Irish National Opera, our resident organisations, New Music Dublin, SIPTU, regional and industry stakeholders;
- Maintain a close working relationship with conductors and soloists to promote the artistic excellence of the orchestra;
- Devise and implement exciting new ways of presenting and connecting with diverse audiences and communities;
- Act as a representative for the organisation externally, raising the profile of the Orchestra and Chorus locally, nationally and internationally.





PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualification

- Undergraduate degree qualification in a relevant discipline or equivalent experience.

Artistic Leadership

- Excellent knowledge of orchestral and choral music and the challenges and opportunities within the sector;
- Comprehensive understanding of musical programming;
- Strong profile and credibility within the arts and culture sector;
- Ability to develop and articulate an artistic vision;
- A strong network and ability to build connections with industry and related sectors.

Strategic Leadership

- Demonstrable track record of leadership in the cultural, arts and creative sector, ideally with an orchestra or other music ensemble of similar size and scale;
- Demonstrable experience of strategic planning and strategy implementation;
- Track record of working collaboratively at executive level;
- Experience in change management;
- Proven ability to lead and motivate high-performing teams.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Organisational Management

- Proven track record of budgetary and resource management in the music industry, ideally with an orchestra or other music ensemble of similar size and scale;
- Experience in developing teams, people management, setting professional development plans and effective use of appraisal processes;
- Strong budgetary and financial acumen including negotiating and fundraising skills;
- Working knowledge of corporate governance, HR and industrial relations;
- Ability to collaborate effectively with internal and external stakeholders;
- Proven ambassadorial skills engaging with industry, media, and other relevant stakeholders.

Personal Qualities

- High level of integrity and excellent interpersonal and communication skills;
- Strong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion and similarly, building an inclusive and diverse orchestra and artistic programme;
- A dedication to community, education, and talent development projects;
- Self-motivated with a strong commitment and enthusiasm for working in a cultural institution;
- Resilient and adaptable during times of change and uncertainty.





HOW TO APPLY

The National Concert Hall will be supported in this appointment process by the executive search firm, Perrett Laver. Enquiries may be made directly to Redmond Scales on redmond.scales@perrettlaver.com.

Applications should consist of a full curriculum vitae detailing professional qualifications and experience, full employment history, responsibilities held and relevant achievements. CVs should be accompanied by a covering letter describing briefly how candidates meet the criteria outlined in the person specification, why the appointment is of interest and what they believe they can bring to the role.

Further information can be found at: <https://candidates.perrettlaver.com/vacancies/> quoting the reference **7063**. The deadline for applications is **Friday, 2nd February 2024**.

The National Concert Hall is an equal opportunities employer.

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LIFE IN DUBLIN

Dublin, the vibrant capital of Ireland, offers a dynamic blend of culture and innovation. Nestled between scenic landscapes and a bustling urban environment, Dublin is a truly global city with a unique and rich culture.

As a modern and forward-thinking city, Dublin is home to numerous prominent multinational corporations, including eight of the top ten financial services companies, 14 of the top 15 medical technology companies, the top five industrial automation companies and the top five global software companies. Ireland has had the fastest growth in GDP in Europe since 2017 and is considered the fourth most competitive economy in the EU.

Dublin is also a city brimming with history and artistic expression. From its historic theatres and galleries to lively street performances, Dublin is a melting pot of creativity. In the city you can discover wide-ranging cultural events, music festivals, and a thriving arts scene that inspire and engage residents and visitors alike.

Dublin's warm and vibrant community welcomes newcomers with open arms. It offers opportunities to engage with diverse cultures and establish international connections with multiple, convenient international travel options to and from Dublin.

For further information on Ireland and on Dublin please visit:

www.idaireland.com

www.enterprise-ireland.com

www.Dublin.ie



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