



*Ernest Read (1879-1965),
CBE, FRAM*

An Introduction to the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra (ERSO):

ERSO was founded in 1931 by Ernest Read, the British conductor, organist, and music educator. Read was a pioneer in the development of music education and youth orchestras within England during the first half of the 20th century. Nearly 90 years on, the community of musicians who make up ERSO strives to continue his legacy.

Since its inception, ERSO has brought together talented music students, young professionals keen to continue developing and accomplished amateurs. Read was passionate about spreading music as widely as possible - particularly to children and young people - while providing orchestral training. In his renowned Ernest Read Concerts for Children which began in 1945 at the Royal Festival Hall, Read developed an innovative format for the day-time concerts that many professional symphony orchestras still follow today, with short programmes, accessible introductions to the repertoire and audience participation. The concerts had a well-renowned and established reputation and sold out for over 50 years.

Read's daughter and son-in-law Noel and Jean Long ran ERSO for many years after his death. Following their retirement, Music Illuminated was founded in December 1998 as a charity to manage ERSO and continue Ernest Read's work. Music Illuminated has four Trustees and eight Committee Members. We are all ERSO musicians who volunteer our time to manage all aspects of running a full symphony orchestra. ERSO presents a series of six concerts each year, combining high quality performance with an approachable style of presentation. At least two of these concerts are always dedicated to working with children and families in the borough of Camden.

ERSO has worked with many distinguished Principal Conductors including the internationally acclaimed Howard Williams, renowned conductor and conducting mentor Peter Stark who has since become our Conductor Emeritus and Ballet Rambert's Paul Hoskins. We have recently appointed Christopher Stark as our new Principal Conductor, following an extensive selection process. Chris is best known as co-founder and co-Artistic Director of the RPS Award-winning Multi-Story Orchestra with whom he made a critically acclaimed BBC Proms debut in 2016. He has also worked extensively with the English Touring Opera and the Glyndebourne Festival and Glyndebourne on Tour.

ERSO also has a professional leader, John Crawford, who is Professor at Trinity Laban and a former member of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

ERSO's strong track record of working with emerging professional musicians:

Since the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra was founded (initially named the London Senior Orchestra), our membership has always included talented music students and young professionals at the start of their careers who are keen to gain repertoire experience. Famous names who gained training and experience as ERSO members during their early professional lives include: horn player Dennis Brain, clarinetist Jack Brymer, oboist Evelyn Rothwell and flautist James Galway.

We are proud of our long tradition of working with emerging soloists, choosing where we can to work with players from within the orchestra and emerging soloists who have been selected for Making Music's Philip and Dorothy Green Award for Young Concert Artists.



Famous former ERSO members

Our ERSO Talent Programme:

In 2017, ERSO developed the ERSO Talent Programme to bring together all of our work with emerging professional musicians. Key worries stated by recent music graduates, taken from the Musicians Benevolent Fund's March 2012 'Supporting emerging professional musicians' report, are the huge competition for work and low fees, as well as the

financial difficulty of continuing to develop artistically through individual lessons and coaching. The ERSO Talent Programme aims to help young musicians to bridge the gap between formal training and a musical career through the provision of valuable and paid professional experience.



ERSO's current section leaders

ERSO's Paid Section Leader chairs:

In September 2016, ERSO initiated a scheme for paid string section leaders with the aim of supporting emerging orchestral players. These developmental roles provide young aspiring professional musicians with valuable experience of leading, coaching and managing their sections. The section leaders are also members of ERSO's Committee, helping to manage the running of the orchestra, planning future seasons and planning and delivering our ERSO Talent Programme and education projects with children.

The paid string section leader positions proved to be extremely valuable both to the role holders and to the orchestra and in November 2017 we widened the scheme to include a Brass Section Leader position.

We also employ a professional double bassist, Jan Zhaourek, as Mentor to our basses for our three larger concerts.

The current string section leaders were appointed for a two-year period ending in November 2018. **We are seeking sponsorship for the new holders of our string section leader chairs (Deputy Leader, Principal 2nd Violin and Principal Cello) and to continue the Brass Leader's and Double Bass Mentor appointments.**

The new section leaders will be appointed through the process that we successfully used to select the best candidates in 2016. We will ask professors at the leading London conservatoires to recommend suitable candidates as well as advertising the positions and reaching out to our wide network of contacts.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to auditions, similar to those for professional orchestras, which will include prepared orchestral excerpts, sight-reading and pieces selected by the candidates. This valuable audition experience will also include an interview to assess the candidates' suitability to undertake the organisation and coaching elements of the roles. Each candidate will be given formal feedback to help with future auditions in their professional lives.

The ERSO Section Leader roles provide valuable, paid experience to emerging professional musicians at the very beginning of their careers and makes a significant contribution to their prospects by boosting their CVs:

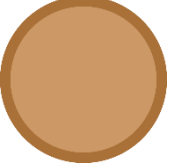
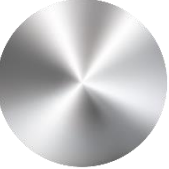

"For a young musician at the beginning of their career, this is an amazing first step into the professional world of orchestral playing, leadership responsibilities and management. The orchestra and its members provide a very positive and encouraging learning environment. I have been offered various other opportunities due to my knowledge, skills and experience gained through ERSO Talent Programme. I consider myself very lucky to be a part of this experience and I sincerely hope that the programme will continue its good work providing better professional opportunities for young musicians."

Barbara, ERSO Principal Cello

Sponsorship of the ERSO Section Leader chairs:

Sponsorship of ERSO's Section Leader chairs allow you to demonstrate your support for the next generation of talented orchestral musicians and provides a range of other benefits, depending upon the level of support.

There are three ways that you can get involved:

Level	Benefits	Level of support
<p>Bronze</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgment of your support in our concert programmes • Acknowledgment of your support on our website erso.london • Boosting the profile of the sponsoring company's brand with our members (including many music teachers and students), with our audiences and with the children and families that we work with in our annual children's and family concerts • Two free tickets to 3 of our annual concerts 	<p>£1,000 – 1,500 one-off donation</p>
<p>Silver</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section leader chair named after the sponsoring company • Acknowledgment of your support in our concert programmes • Acknowledgment of your support on our website erso.london • Free advertising in our programme • Boosting the profile of the sponsoring company's brand with our members (including many music teachers and students), with our audiences and with the children and families that we work with in our annual children's and family concerts • Two free tickets to 3 of our annual concerts • The chance to meet with your sponsored musician at a sponsors' reception to be held on a concert day 	<p>Sponsoring one chair for a 2-year period.</p> <p>Chair costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,500 for Deputy Leader (violin) • £2,500 for Principal 2nd Violin • £2,500 for Principal Cello • £2,000 for the Brass Section Leader • £3,000 for the Double Bass Mentor
<p>Gold</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of the section leader chairs being named after the sponsoring company • Acknowledgment of your support in our concert programmes • Acknowledgment of your support on our website erso.london • Free advertising in our programme • Boosting the profile of the sponsoring company's brand with our members (including many music teachers and students), with our audiences and with the children and families that we work with in our annual children's and family concerts • Four free tickets to any 3 of our annual concerts • Sharing appropriate posts related to the sponsoring company on the ERSO website and Facebook page • Invitation to attend children and family concerts and the opportunity to demonstrate instruments to children with the support of ERSO players prior to concerts. • A private recital from your chosen musicians (additional costs must be covered by the company and the content of the performance is at the musicians' discretion). • The chance to meet with your sponsored musicians at a sponsors' reception to be held on a concert day 	<p>Sponsoring multiple chairs for a 2-year period. Select multiple chairs at the following donation level per chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,500 for Deputy Leader (violin) • £2,500 for Principal 2nd Violin • £2,500 for Principal Cello • £2,000 for the Brass Section Leader • £3,000 for the Double Bass Mentor

The cost associated with the Section Leader chairs for the 2-year period covering our 2018/19 and 2019/20 seasons is **£12,500**. ERSO's main source of income is an annual donation of £14,000 from the Ernest Read Trust, who have committed a further £4,500 for the 2-year period to support the Section Leader chairs. We are seeking funding from Trusts and companies to raise the remaining £8,000 to enable us to deliver our ERSO Talent Programme in full and our work with children and young people.

We would be delighted to have the time to discuss opportunities for Chair Support with you.