South East Derbyshire Music Centre

Ensemble Director: Foundations String Orchestra

📍 Based at Kirk Hallam Academy near Ilkeston

💷 Pay: £32 per hour

South East Derbyshire Music Centre (SEDMC) is looking for an enthusiastic and inspiring Ensemble Director to lead our Foundations String Orchestra. This is an exciting opportunity to work with beginner and early-stage young musicians.

About the Role

As ensemble director for our Foundations String Orchestra, you will play a key role in nurturing the musical growth of our youngest string players. This position is about much more than leading rehearsals; it's about building confidence, developing core ensemble skills, and creating a welcoming environment where beginners can thrive and enjoy making music together. SEDMC ensemble directors will:

- Develop players' ensemble skills, technique, and musical enjoyment.
- Choose and prepare engaging repertoire suitable for beginner to grade two musicians.
- Support and encourage students of all abilities, ensuring rehearsals are inclusive, fun, and developmental.
- Collaborate with SEDMC staff and contribute to concerts and community events.
- Support SEDMC with their membership goals by acting as an ambassador for the organisation in their communities.

Qualifications & Qualities

Strong proficiency on a string instrument.	Essential	Application
Experience of leading ensembles **or** teaching young musicians	Essential	Application
Ability to plan and deliver rehearsals that are structured, enjoyable, and musical.	Essential	Interview
Demonstrate a working knowledge on how to coach young musicians on violin, viola, cello, and double bass.	Essential	Interview
Commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment.	Essential	Application/Interview
Commitment to safeguarding children and young people.	Essential	Application/Interview

Formal music qualification at level 6 or above	Desirable	Application
Music education qualifications or training	Desirable	Application
Experience working with beginner or mixed-ability groups.	Desirable	Application
Knowledge of a wide range of beginner string repertoire.	Desirable	Application/Interview
Ability to accompany or support with a secondary instrument.	Desirable	Interview
Experience organising and directing performances.	Desirable	Application

Why Join SEDMC?

South East Derbyshire Music Centre has a long history of youth music making in the Erewash and Amber Valley area. We are aspirational for our members and aim to instil musical excellence at all levels. Joining our team means becoming part of a friendly, passionate community where both staff and students are supported to flourish.

- Be part of a welcoming, vibrant music centre with a strong community ethos.
- Join an enthusiastic and positive team of ensemble directors during an exciting time of change for the centre.
- Inspire and shape the musical journey of young string players.
- Opportunities to collaborate with a diverse range of ensembles and staff.
- Competitive rate of £32 per hour.

South East Derbyshire Music Centre is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. We celebrate diversity and actively encourage applications from people of all backgrounds, experiences and identities. We believe that music is for everyone, and we are dedicated to ensuring our ensembles and opportunities reflect and embrace the richness of our community. To this end, please let us know of any access requirements you may need to take part in the recruitment and interview process.

Making your application

For more information about SEDMC, visit www.sedmc.co.uk.

📩 To apply, please send your CV and a short covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to the Director of Music, Matthew Barks **matthew@sedmc.co.uk**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to briefly work with the ensemble followed by an interview with the director of music and a member of the trustees

Start date: January 9th 2027