

# DES MOINES METRO OPERA

November 5, 2018

To: DMMO Audition Applicant  
Fr: Mark Dorr, Orchestra Personnel and Operations Manager  
Re: 2019 Season Audition Information

Dear Audition Applicant,

Thank you for your interest regarding an orchestral vacancy for the 2019 season of the Des Moines Metro Opera. Please refer to and read carefully the complete packet of materials for specific audition information and orchestral excerpts.

Our Artistic Director Emeritus, Dr. Robert Larsen, founded the Des Moines Metro Opera (DMMO) in 1973. The DMMO is a non-profit, professional opera company dedicated to bringing world-class opera productions and vital performing arts education to our region. Since its inception, the DMMO has auditioned and hired its own independent festival orchestra. David Neely currently serves as Music Director and Principal Conductor. Because of the DMMO's favorable schedule, extraordinary national reputation of the company, excellent repertoire, distinctive programming, and high artistic quality, it is possible to engage the very best of professional orchestral musicians. These musicians travel from all over North America to play in the Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra. A great majority of our orchestral musicians perform the remainder of the year with professional orchestras that typically do not have a summer season. Many players return to our festival year after year and have the potential to be promoted through our probationary / tenure ("Regular Member Status") process.

The DMMO summer festival takes place on the campus of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. Most members of the company are in residence there for the duration of the season. Indianola is a rural suburban community of approximately 15,000 people located 12 miles south of Des Moines (metro area population: 600,000). The college and small-town atmosphere of Indianola is friendly and relaxed, with ample opportunities for recreational and cultural activities, dining, and shopping. All of the DMMO's mainstage operas take place in the Blank Performing Arts Center Theater on the Simpson College campus. This contemporary style, 467-seat theater has a combination thrust and proscenium layout with a relatively large orchestra pit. Second Stages Series productions are typically performed in various venues around the Des Moines metro area.

The 2019 DMMO season for the orchestra will run from June 17 to July 21. A complete schedule of services will be sent out to DMMO Orchestra members in the spring. It will include approximately 15 performances and 14 rehearsals for the mainstage productions. Musicians will be contracted only for the number of services needed. Mainstage repertoire will be *La Bohème* by Giacomo Puccini; Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*; and *Wozzeck* by Alban Berg. There is also the possibility of additional work with Second Stages Series productions and the "Stars of Tomorrow" concert. Chamber music concerts are held each season. Participation by orchestra members for chamber concerts is strictly voluntary with no compensation. These concerts offer members of our orchestra another opportunity to get better acquainted with colleagues while playing great literature encompassing a variety of musical styles.

Wages and conditions of employment are governed through a collective bargaining agreement between the Des Moines Metro Opera and the AF of M Local 75 in Des Moines. The 2019 minimum contract rate per service for a section player will be \$113.78. Principal stipends are 22% above the minimum contract rate. When applicable, overtimes and any doublings are paid in addition to the given per service rate. Total summer earnings for a section player who is contracted for all three mainstage shows during the 2019 season (with no overtimes or doublings) will be approximately \$3,298. For a principal player contracted for all three mainstage shows (with no overtimes or doublings), the approximate earnings will be \$4,025.

Air-conditioned dormitory housing is provided by the company at no cost to an individual contracted musician traveling from over 100 miles away from the Simpson College campus. No children are allowed to reside in the dorms. Alternative housing is also available (including units for contracted musicians' families) on a limited basis at a very reasonable cost charged to the occupants.

Musicians whose permanent residence is more than 25 miles from Indianola, Iowa, shall receive one travel stipend payment per season of twenty-five cents per mile up to but not exceeding the maximum payment of \$106.03 (2019 rate). The mileage will be determined according to the most expeditious travel route as specified on programs such as MapQuest or Google Maps.

**Please note the following as it pertains to your particular instrumental vacancy:**

*The deadline for submitting all audition materials to the DMMO is January 10, 2019.*

*All applicants will be notified of their audition result or receive an update by April 1, 2019.*

**Section Cello (two positions), Principal Oboe, Principal Bassoon, Section Second Trumpet, and Principal Timpani vacancies:** These are all core orchestra positions. Audition winners will go through a two-year probationary process before the possibility of earning Regular Member Status with the orchestra. *All audition applicants are required to indicate in their submission materials the specific position(s) for which they are applying. This is particularly important when multiple vacancies occur within a section of the orchestra. If the candidate provides no specification as to position(s), the audition packet will be automatically disqualified.*

*Please note:* The person selected for the **Principal Timpani** position must be able to provide his/her own instruments and transport them to the venue.

We think you will find the DMMO festival a pleasant and musically rewarding way to spend a few weeks of your summer. We look forward to receiving your application packet!

Sincerely,

Mark Dorr  
Orchestra Personnel and Operations Manager  
Des Moines Metro Opera

# Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra

## Audition Materials Submission Guidelines

Thank you for your inquiry regarding an orchestral vacancy for the **2019 season** of the Des Moines Metro Opera. In addition to this document, please also refer to the general audition information letter and required list of musical excerpts for specific details.

All audition application materials for a candidate must be contained within one e-mail and sent no later than **January 10, 2019**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Incomplete submissions may be disqualified. If there are multiple vacancies for an instrument, clearly indicate the specific position(s) for which you are applying (i.e. Principal, Section, Banda). Failure to do so will result in automatic disqualification. In some instances, an audition runner-up may be offered a one-year contract. All audition materials submitted by applicants become the property of the Des Moines Metro Opera.

If you have any further questions, you may contact Sam Carroll in the DMMO Office at (515) 961-6221 [scarroll@dmmo.org] or e-mail Personnel Manager Mark Dorr [mdorr@dmmo.org].

### **Please be sure your audition / application materials are complete by including the following:**

- Please submit mp3 recordings of all required audition excerpts performed in the order in which they appear on the DMMO excerpt list. If an additional selection is required (i.e., Mozart concerto, Bach cello suite), this material should be first on the recording. All excerpts should be performed unaccompanied. If a concerto is required as part of an audition, it shall also be performed unaccompanied. Concerto / recital recordings will not be accepted in place of the required DMMO excerpts.
- A pdf file of your educational / professional performance resume. Only pdf format will be accepted. Be sure to include on the resume your physical mailing address, phone number, and current e-mail address. Include in the reference section at least two conductors who can provide a professional recommendation / overview of your performance experience with their ensembles, preferably but not limited to the opera genre. Please include all pertinent contact information for these conductors including position, organization, phone number, and e-mail address.
- A pdf file containing a list of operas you have performed and in what capacity (i.e. Principal, Section, Banda). Only pdf format will be accepted. If preferred, this may be included within the resume.

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## Audition Materials Submission Process:

- DMMO audition applicants are required to have an active Dropbox account. Dropbox accounts are free and relatively easy to set-up. If you do not have a Dropbox account, then you can create one at this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/help/account/create-account>.
- All audition submission materials must be uploaded into a single Dropbox folder.
- Contained within your Dropbox folder will be all DMMO audition submission materials (recordings, resume, conductor references, operas performed, etc.). Each file in the folder should have its own name. Be sure that each musical excerpt is recorded as a separate file and the excerpt title is clearly labeled on the individual file. ***This is a blind audition, so please do not include personal information on or within your mp3 audio files. Your name, however, should appear on all other materials.***
- Please submit recordings in an mp3 audio digital file format compatible with Dropbox. No other formats will be accepted.
- Create a shareable link to your Dropbox folder and e-mail the link to the following DMMO address: [orchestraauditions@dmmo.org](mailto:orchestraauditions@dmmo.org). Again, all submitted materials must be contained within one Dropbox folder and the link sent in a single e-mail.
- After submitting the application materials to the DMMO e-mail account, please be sure to keep your audition folder active on Dropbox until after the January 10 submission deadline.

## **General Information & Requirements:**

- Applicants may use their own musical excerpts for the audition or request a pdf copy be sent from the DMMO office. It is highly recommended that applicants peruse the DMMO excerpts if there are any questions as to exact location, rehearsal numbers, etc. To obtain a pdf file of the excerpts, please email your request to [orchestraauditions@dmmo.org](mailto:orchestraauditions@dmmo.org).
- Be sure that the excerpt recordings are of the highest quality possible in order to present an accurate hearing for the audition committee. If possible, microphone placement within 20 feet of the player is preferred. If at all possible, do *not* record in a live space such as a church sanctuary or recital hall with echo / excessive reverb.
- Editing is *not* allowed within excerpts. Do *not* add any reverb or any other artificial / digital enhancements to the recording (i.e. *no* Auto-Tune).
- Play straight through each individual excerpt. Count through rests / tacets up to four measures in duration. Any rests / tacets of greater length may be omitted at the discretion of the player.
- String bowings are at the discretion of the performer.
- *Failure to follow the above guidelines and requirements will result in automatic disqualification of the candidate.*
- DMMO will provide confirmation of the receipt of an applicant's audition materials. This will typically be in the form of an e-mail response.

**All applicants will be notified of their audition result or receive an update by April 1, 2019.**

**Send all application materials to this e-mail address:**      orchestraauditions@dmmo.org



Orchestral Audition List  
Principal Timpani

*Excerpts are to be recorded in this order.*

|              |                            |   |
|--------------|----------------------------|---|
| Britten      | <i>Peter Grimes</i>        | Interlude II<br>rehearsals 51 - 54  |
| Tchaikovsky  | <i>Symphony no. 4</i>      | Mvt. I<br>rehearsals H - K,<br>2 measures before rehearsal T - 2<br>measures before rehearsal V   |
| Mozart       | <i>The Magic Flute</i>     | Overture<br>measures 186 - end  |
| Mahler       | <i>Symphony no. 5</i>      | Mvt. V, Rondo - Finale<br>12 measures after rehearsal 34 - end  |
| Wagner       | <i>Die Gotterdammerung</i> | Funeral music<br>opening - rehearsal B  |
| Strauss      | <i>Burleske</i>            | opening - rehearsal A<br>rehearsal L - 22 measures after L  |
| Shostakovich | <i>Symphony no. 1</i>      | Mvt. IV<br>rehearsal 35, solos  |
| Beethoven    | <i>Symphony no. 9</i>      | Mvt. I<br>15 measures before rehearsal A -<br>downbeat of A,<br>4 measures before rehearsal K - 7<br>measures after rehearsal L,<br>19 measures after rehearsal R - end |
| Beethoven    | <i>Fidelio</i>             | No. 16, Finale<br>measures 1 - 26<br>measures 375 - end of opera  |