

English National Ballet School

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title of Post:	Pianist
Reporting To:	Lead Pianist
Salary Range:	£37,000 per annum
Key Working Relationships:	Lead Pianist, Artistic Director, Ballet Tutors, Pianists Other Staff as Required
Contract Terms:	Permanent position. The role is full time working approximately 36 hours per week which includes practice and preparation time, with a maximum daily playing time of 6hours 45mins. Working patterns are generally Monday to Friday with up to two Saturdays per term working on rotation and some evening and weekend work will be required on occasion. All annual leave is to be taken outside school term. The role has a one term probation period.
Main Purpose of the Job:	To play to the highest possible standards of pianism and musicianship for class and rehearsal as scheduled and for performances and auditions as required.
Safeguarding Duties and Responsibilities:	The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all students, all employees are expected to share this commitment. Staff are expected to proactively ensure the effective implementation of policies and procedures relating to safeguarding and wellbeing, comply with statutory regulations and communicate effectively with students, parents, colleagues and agencies appropriately.
Key Responsibilities: Class Pianist	• Provide piano accompaniment to School classes, auditions, rehearsals, and short courses, off-site or on school premises • Research appropriate music to accompany dance classes, working closely with the teaching staff to adapt the musical repertoire to meet the requirements of different teachers • Follow the class closely, interpreting the directions of the teacher and playing accordingly • Be rigorously punctual in observing class times, arriving in advance of the class in order that it may begin at the appointed time

Since job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, the post holder may be required to undertake other duties, which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities.

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General

- Keep abreast of developments in the School's work
- Participate in, and contribute to staff meetings and similar events concerned with the development of the School's work, when requested or required to do so
- To comply with company policies always relating to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 at all times
- To comply with company policies always relating to the equality of opportunity and diversity

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July 2026

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PERSON SPECIFICATION FOR PIANIST

Applicants for this post should demonstrate how their skills and experience meet the following :

Essential:

- Ability to sight-read music and play the piano to a high level (ability to maintain tempo and play in standard and compound time signature) to meet the specific needs of dance classes
- Knowledge of appropriate music accompaniment for classical ballet, character dance, solos (variations), and repertoire
- Substantial experience in providing musical accompaniment to a professional or educational dance organisation
- High-level degree or equivalent in practical music studies
- Experience in researching appropriate music for accompaniment
- Excellent musical improvisational skills
- Ability to cope with the physical demands of a busy schedule year-round
- In depth knowledge of the format and structure of classical ballet classes
- Ability to learn extracts from ballet scores quickly and efficiently.

Desirable:

- Excellent communication skills in spoken and written English
- Excellent and self-sufficient administrative ability
- Able to work in a changing environment and respond flexibly to changing needs and demands
- Tactful and diplomatic in approach and able to deal with confidential matters with complete discretion
- Previous experience working with administrative systems
- Experience working in a ballet company or ballet school

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