



AYLESBURY

Choral Society

Appointment of Musical Director

Job Description:

The principal duties of the Musical Director are as follows:

- To join with the Music Sub-Committee to recommend to the full Committee the repertoire at least one year in advance for the forthcoming season
- To prepare members in the agreed repertoire at the weekly rehearsals and in any other planned activities
- To conduct the choir and other performers in each season of concerts
- To recommend to the Committee suitable soloists and/or instrumentalists for the season's concerts and provide the contact details of the soloists or their agents
- To aim for the highest possible standards both at rehearsals and concerts, consistent with the choir's musical and financial resources
- To conduct membership voice assessments
- To advise and assist the Committee in the management of the choir's affairs as an ex officio member of the Committee

The MD is welcome to attend any Committee meeting.

At the beginning of each term, the MD will provide a schedule of music to be worked on at each rehearsal.

The MD may be asked to contribute to the production of programme notes.

The MD should be keen to develop the choir and be willing to assist in new opportunities that may arise.

ACS's audiences appreciate our MD's willingness to engage with them during our concerts and to elaborate where appropriate on the items in the programme. The audience will on occasion, particularly at Christmas concerts, be encouraged to participate in the singing.

What we are looking for in an MD

The MD should:

- Be a dynamic communicator, able to enthuse and motivate choir members, with a good sense of fun, and a passion for and joy in music from a range of historical periods and lighter, more

contemporary styles (e.g. like those arrangements contained within the "Encores for Choirs" and "In the Mood" books)

- Have experience of both choral and orchestral conducting
- Demand and achieve high standards in both rehearsal and performance whilst retaining a light touch and a sense of humour
- Have decent keyboard skills (notwithstanding, the choir does employ an accompanist/repetiteur)
- Be able to contribute to creating balanced programmes which will appeal to all members of the Society irrespective of their musical abilities
- Have contacts in the music world that would benefit the Society, including the ability to engage suitable vocal soloists and orchestral players for various performances
- Be willing to participate in the Choir's social and other activities

Conditions of Appointment

The post becomes vacant on 1st September 2025, though there may be potential to commence on 7th April 2025.

The MD will be engaged by the choir on a self-employed basis on a fixed term contract with an initial trial period of 12 months.

The current fee for each rehearsal is £115 (usually 34 rehearsals per year) with £500 for each of three concert days - this equates to around £5410 per annum. These fees are currently inclusive of travel expenses. Rehearsal fees are paid monthly in arrears. Any other additional fees will be negotiated at the appropriate time.

If the MD is unable to attend a rehearsal, he/she must inform the Committee as soon as possible and arrange a suitable replacement.

The Appointment Process

The initial selection process will take place in December and selected candidates will be invited to an interview in the week commencing 6 January 2025 at times to be agreed between the parties. Interviews are expected to take place online (e.g. Zoom).

Second-stage short-listed candidates will be invited to audition with the choir on a Tuesday evening in late January or early February at the Church on Fairford Leys, Aylesbury.

Applications

Please submit your completed application form and CV by 30 November 2024 either by email to acschairman@gmail.com or by post to The Chairman – Aylesbury Choral Society, 24, Chiltern Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP21 8BT. Queries can be made via the previous mentioned email address or by phone on 0781 477 3919.